



Series II

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2007

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ԴՐԱՄԱԳԻՏԱԿԱՆ

NUMISMATIC

ՀԱՆԴԵՍ

JOURNAL

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EDITORIAL

The first installment of *Metrology of Cilician Armenian Coinage* is published in this issue of the ANJ. Justifiably, one could argue that there is nothing new therein.

The first part is on the copper coins of Cilician Armenian Barons; and the second part, on the gold coins of Cilician Armenian royal period.

The second installment of this series will be on the silver and copper coins struck by Levon I (1198-1219); the third will be on Hetoum I (1226-1270), and so on till Levon V (1374-1375).

In all cases the metrological data will be compiled in the same format, columns and columns of data, in the end a bar chart graphically displaying the weight averages for all silver and copper denominations of that ruler, then tabulated averages of weight and diameter.

King Levon I installment, as of today, occupies between 25 pages. So is the section on King Hetoum I. Not that fortunate are some of the successors like Gosdantin I or Guy. Obviously, we could use more data to make the result more meaningful and the averages close to the actual value as much as possible. This is more relevant and true for the scarce and rare issues.

For an occasional reader this work could be only columns of boring figures which does not seem to have any useful meaning and value. On the other hand, however, for a researcher who wishes to do metrological analysis, the value is apparent. If this kind of work had existed before we composed the "Metrological Analysis of Levon I Double Trams" (ANJ 2006 pp. 45-65), the length of the paper could have been seven pages shorter, the reader would not be subjected to columns of double tram metrological data, and it would have saved many hours of research labor on our side.

Publishing this type of work in a quarterly numismatic publication has a downside. It will be annoying to most readers, no immediate reference value, unless he is working on a numismatic metrological project. Hence, we could lose readers. Having brought this to the attention of our readers, we would like to know if they want this series of metrology to continue or stop; instead have it published as a monograph in our *Special Publication* series, perhaps similar to our SP12, *Armenian Coin Auctions*. **Please let us hear from you.**

Y. T. Nercessian

MEMBERSHIP DISCOUNT SCHEDULE

All Armenian Numismatic Society members receive a 20% discount on all publications*: *Armenian Numismatic Journal* issues (bound volumes included), *Special Publications*, Bedoukian publications, and also our silver medals.

* Except for publications with their price marked * which are already offered at a reduced price

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**EXCERPTS FROM THE LETTERS
RECEIVED ON THE PUBLICATION OF THE
Silver Coinage of the Artaxiad Dynasty of Armenia (2006)**

I just received your book on the *Silver coinage of the Artaxiad dynasty of Armenia*, and return you all my congratulations and thanks for this complete and useful opus. I will give it today to our librarian. Best regards

Dominique Gerin
conservatrice en chef
chargée des monnaies grecques
Bibliothèque nationale de France

LETTERS AND E-MAILS TO THE EDITOR

NUMISMATIC BOOKS REACH ARMENIA

Ձեր ուղարկած գրականությունը և 2 պահպանները ապահով տեղ են հասել: Դրանք այժմ պահեստաւորուած են ՀՊԹ-ում: Ապաստւմ եմ թանգարանի տնօրինութեան կարգադրութիւններին: Գրքերի բաշխումով այս անգամ հաւանաբար կը զբաղուեն թանգարանի գրադարանի աշխատակիցները: Դրամագիտութեան բաժնի և իմ կողմից շնորհակալութիւն եմ յայտնում Ձեզ, Պարոնայք Վարդան Կէլէնեանին, Յակոբ Իշխանեանին, Բարդ Մահակեանին, Սարգիս Բրիխճեանին, ինչպէս և Պրն. Ստեփան Լազարեանին այս ձեռնարկի իրականացման համար: Օրերս ստացանք նաև ՀԴՀ 2006 Դ. պրակը:

Ruben Vardanyan
History Museum of Armenia, Numismatics Section
Yerevan, Armenia

... As for the lot of 40 coins, I unfortunately don't have much more information about it. All I heard was: Around May or June 2005, a lot of 40 **tetradrachms of Tigranes II** was seized by Syrian customs as the coins were being smuggled into Lebanon. I heard about this lot from a Lebanese dealer who is well connected and had been offered the lot, though who never saw it as it didn't make it to him. I would repeat this with caution, as stories other than first-hand could be exaggerated or inflated, if not altogether false.

On a different note, I have recently acquired a few "Post-Roupenian" coppers. The more of these I see, the more I find interesting the fact that there are so many varieties, not to mention that they are represented by so many dies. This, unlike the counterfeits of Levon I trans which seem to surface here and there, but which are represented by relatively few dies. I have started a study of these coins, and wanted to inquire if you have specimens you would like to include in this study, or if you are aware of other members of the Arm Num Soc, or even outside the Society's membership, who have specimens they'd consider having included. Additionally, I would appreciate your publishing this email in the next issue of the Arm NJ, as a solicitation for submittals of specimens to be included in my study.

Finally, regarding the letter from Levon Saryan concerning a Society website, I do think it a great idea, probably long past-due. I would be happy to work on this committee in any capacity I can contribute.

Jirair Christianian

Internet Auctions, BUYERS BEWARE: Online auctions are a separate aspect of the internet. The largest and most popular internet auction site is eBay, where collectors can select from hundreds of items from just as many dealers. Just as in live auctions, collectors can purchase numismatic collectibles from around the world. Unlike traditional auctions, however, there may be little or no information about the seller's reputation and no guarantee in case the buyer is dissatisfied. **BUYERS BEWARE!!** Collectors need to be VERY CAUTIOUS when using these sites, because they are essentially unregulated. Over the past 8 years, I have observed that many numismatic dealers on eBay have no specialized knowledge or experience with Armenian coins. Others have no numismatic background, and some have no idea whatsoever about what they are selling. They do not understand or use correct numismatic terminology. They do not understand the distinction between genuine and counterfeit. I have seen stolen Armenian antiquities listed for sale with impunity. I have seen Armenian coins egregiously overgraded. Counterfeit Armenian coins (represented as genuine) have sold for prices approximating those of genuine pieces. eBay requires sellers to affirm that listed items are genuine, but does not take action against unscrupulous sellers. Collectors must protect themselves by (1) asking questions of the seller regarding authenticity, guarantee, grading, weight, etc., (2) checking the dealer's background, credentials, and feedback comments, (3) informing eBay and the seller of an item's questionable status, (4) communicating with fellow collectors, and (5) refusing to bid on items offered by unknown or unscrupulous sellers.

L. A. Saryan

COPPER COINS OF KING GOSDANTIN I (1298-1299)

(Inventory)

Plate 1

Y. T. NERCESSIAN

Introduction

The scarcity of King Gosdantin's copper coins is manifested by the rarity of numismatic scholarship on the subject coins.

In 1892, Fr. Clement Sibilian was the first who published and described the copper coins of Gosdantin I in his classic book.¹ Here Sibilian notes that there are 5 pieces in the collection of Mekhitarist Congregation in Vienna.²

In 1936, K. J. Basmadjian described Gosdantin's copper coins. However, he did not publish any line drawings for this coin as he did for gold and silver pieces.³ It is apparent that his information was based on the description and line drawing of Fr. Sibilian.

In 1958, Paul Z. Bedoukian published an essay on the coins of Gosdantin I. Here Bedoukian catalogued all known coins ascribed to him: 2 gold tahekans, 3 silver trams, and 11 copper kardezses.⁴ In the supplement of this article he raised the total sum of the coppers to 14 pieces.

In 1962, Paul Z. Bedoukian published his monumental pioneering book, *Coinage of Cilician Armenia*,⁵ cataloguing 24 pieces of coppers, classified under three varieties of obverse inscriptions and six varieties of reverse design.⁶ However, 22 of the coins were classified under the first two obverse circular inscriptions.

In 1971, Paul Z. Bedoukian published his handbook on medieval Armenian coins. Here a kardez of Gosdantin I was catalogued but there was no mention of the total sum of these copper coins.⁷

In 1995, Y. T. Nercessian published his book, *Armenian Coins and Their Values*.⁸ Here two copper coins of King Gosdantin I were catalogued, and noted that cumulatively, the extant of his kardezses are 44 pieces.

¹ Fr. Clement Sibilian, *Classification of Roupenian Coins* (Vienna, 1892), pp. 49-50, pl. IV, Nos. 42-44 (in Armenian).

² Sibilian, p. 50

³ K. J. Basmadjian, *Numismatique générale de l'Arménie* (Venice, 1936), p. 166 (in Armenian). Basmadjian does not reference any specific scholarship. However, Fr. Sibilian's classic book is mentioned in the preface of Basmadjian's book, p. XII and in a general bibliography on p. 194.

⁴ Paul Z. Bedoukian, "The Coinage of Gosdantin I (1298-1299) of Cilician Armenia," *Handes Amsorya*, Vol. LXXII (Oct. 1958), No. 10, pp. 381-390; also in *Selected Numismatic Studies [I]* [SNS [I]], (Los Angeles, 1981), pp. 334-338 (in Armenian).

⁵ Paul Z. Bedoukian, *Coinage of Cilician Armenia* [CCA] (New York, 1962; Vienna, 1963; revised edition, Danbury, Connecticut, 1979).

⁶ Bedoukian, CCA, Nos. 1728-1733.

⁷ Paul Z. Bedoukian, *Medieval Armenian Coins*. Paris: 1971, reprinted from *Revue des Études Arméniennes*, New Series, Vol. VIII (1971), pp. 365-431; also in SNS [I], pp. 191-268, No. 88.

⁸ Y. T. Nercessian, *Armenian Coins and Their Values* [ACV] (Los Angeles, 1995), pp. 149-150, Nos. 417-418, pl. 34.

In 2006, M.-L. Garabedian published an article on the coins of Gosdantin I. It should be mentioned that this paper was read in 1991 mentioning the newly discovered coins of Gosdantin I and, basically, upgraded to present the coins of Gosdantin preserved in the History Museum of Armenia.⁹

Description of coins

Gosdantin I struck gold, silver, and copper coins. His coins have originality, beauty, new and different type of design. There are only two known pieces from his gold coins. His silver coins are very rare. His copper coins, known as kardez, are rare.

It is interesting to note that the gold and silver coins display the same obverse design, king on horseback riding right and uplifted sword in his right hand. The reverse of silver and obverse of copper coins depict the king standing and facing with uplifted sword in his right hand and cross in his left.

Kardez.

Obv.: King is standing and facing, wearing crown and royal vestments. He holds an uplifted cross in his l. hand and a sword in his r. hand. Clockwise legend,
+ ԿՈՍՏԱՆԴԻԱՆՈՒ ԹԱԳՐ (Gosdantianos king).

Rev.: Ornate cross with dots. Clockwise legend,
+ ՇԻՆԵԼ Ի ԳԱՂԱԳՆ ՍԻՍ (struck in the city of Sis).

Obverse inscription varieties include

+ ԿՈՍՏԱՆԴԻԱՆՈՒ ԹԱԳՐ, + ԿՈՍՏԱՆԴԻԱՆՈՒ ԹԱԳ.

Cataloguing the Coins

The copper coins of Gosdantin I have a uniform design. The variation is in obverse reverse legends and dots appearing at various locations relative to each arm of the reverse cross.

This classification is an attempt to form a catalogue where hitherto unclassified material can be listed. Coins classified in Bedoukian's corpus, the author's collection, sale and auction catalogues (see the abbreviation list at the end of this paper), and museums and other private collections constituted the material for corpus presented in Table 1. Unfortunately, collectors and scholars should be cautioned that, many coin dealers who cannot read the Armenian legends inscribed on coins, confuse the large pogh of King Levon IV (1320-1342) and attribute it to King Gosdantin I.

The presentation format in Table 1 is standardized. The first column in the catalogue gives the assigned type number. The second column references the corpus numbers of Bedoukian's *Coinage of Cilician Armenia*. The obverse Armenian legend is at the top of the block of coins, starting with the specimen number. The reverse Armenian inscription is printed in the third column. Below the reverse inscription is the corpus which includes metrological data and information where the coin is preserved or was listed for sale. The last column indicates the reverse cross patterns. An asterisk indicates the specimen illustrated in the plate.

⁹ M.-L. Garabedian, "Newly Discovered Coins of Gosdantin I of Cilicia," *Armenian Numismatic Journal*, Ser. II, Vol. 2, pp. 31-36, pl. 2 (in Armenian).

Table 1. Catalogue of Godantin I Kardezses

No.	CCA No.	Reverse Legend and Corpus	Obv. Rev. Style Cross
<hr/>			
+ԿՈՍՏԱՆԴԻԱՆՈՒ ԹԱԳՐ			
01	1729V	+ԾԻՆԵԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ Ի ՍԻՍ a) 2.71g, Panossian-2354• b) 2.64g-21ø-6h, ACV 417, CNG 36-842, YN 5200• c) 2.62g, MM12-831•	G G G
02	1728	+ԾԻՆԵԼ ՔԱՂԱՔՆ Ի ՍԻՍ a) AD-297, CCA 1728 b) Demirjian I-87 c) Demirjian II-85a	? ? ?
03	1729	+ԾԻՆԵԼ ԳԱՂԱԳՆ ՍԻՍ a) 2.69g-21ø-10h, YN 1252•	D
04	1729	a) 2.5g WM, CCA 1729 b) AD-391, CCA 1729•	G G
05	1729	a) Rev. uncertain, PB CCA 1729 b) Rev. uncertain, WM CCA 1729	? ?
06	1729V	+ԾԻՆԵԼ ՔԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻՍ a) 2.50g-22.4ø-2h, Erevan 19033/35 b) 2.10g-22ø-1h, Erevan 17620/55 c) 1.76g-23ø, AC&B17-147	A A A
07	1729V	a) 3.27g-22.5ø-1h, Erevan 17941/68 b) 2.94g, JS 531• c) 2.72g-21ø, MA-189• d) 2.42g, CS-815•	F F F F
+ԿՈՍՏԱՆԴԻԱՆՈՒ ԹԱԳՐ			
08	1729V	+ԾԻՆԵԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ Ի ՍԻՍ a) 1.80g-21ø-1h JC258•	G
09	1729V	+ԾԻՆԵԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ Ի ՍԻ a) 2.94g, CS-814•	E
10	1728V	+ԾԻՆԵԼ ՔԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻՍ Է a) 2.65g, CNG27-185•	A
+ԿՈՍՏԱՆԴԻԱՆՈՒ ԹԱԳՐ			
11	1733	+ԾԻՆԵԼ ԳԱՂԱԳՆ ՍԻՍ Է a) 2.03g, PB CCA 1733 b) MM, CCA 1733	A A
12	1733V	+ԾԻՆԵԼ ՔԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻՍ Է a) 2.8g-21ø-3h, GS	A

[illegible]

STYLISTIC ANALYSIS

Kardez Obverse Style

Based on several specimens examined by the author, the Gosdantin I kardez is quite uniform. Obverse variations occur only in circular inscription. As noted earlier, the obverse design, "king standing and facing, holding a cross and uplifted sword," is used to strike the reverses of his silver trams. On some tram reverses we can notice dots on each side of the king.¹⁰ It is entirely possible that a similar die, with field marks on copper coins, may surface in the future.

Cross Patterns

Gosdantin I cross patterns are classified into eight varieties. The basic pattern is the simple cross (cross pattée) or Latin cross as called by Paul Bedoukian. Some varieties, as can be seen in Figure 1, have dots located at various positions relative to the cross arm.

In this corpus 75 pieces are catalogued and we know of the cross patterns of 56 pieces. More than 46% of kardezses (26 out of 56) display cross pattée, Fig. 1-A.

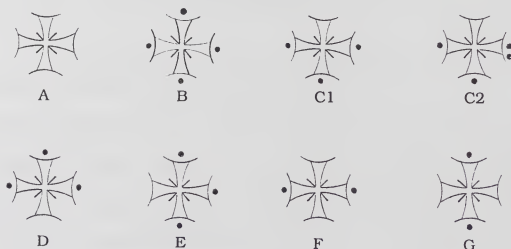


Fig. 1. Cross patterns of Gosdantin I copper coins

Metrology

Our Table 1 does not present metrological data on all coins. We have the weights of 46 coins (of 75 total), averaging 2.50 grams. The lightest weight reads 1.76 grams, the heaviest 3.27 grams.

Diameter measurements are given for only 23 out of 75 of the copper coins, averaging 21.30 mm. The smallest diameter is 20 mm; widest, 23 mm. More than half of the coins (12 out of 23) have 21 mm diameter.¹¹

We have die axis readings for exactly one fifth of the coins (15 out of 75); 1h (3 coins), 2h (1), 3h (2), 4h (1), 5:30 (1), 6h (2), 7h (1), 8h (1), 10h (1), 11h (2). As can be seen, the die axis

¹⁰ Y. T. Nersessian, "Inventory of Gosdantin I Trams," *Armenian Numismatic Studies* (Los Angeles, 2000), pp. 359-364, No. 15; reprinted from *Armenian Numismatic Journal*, Ser. I (Vol. XIV (1988), No. 2, pp. 12-15.

¹¹ Bibliothèque Nationale de France coin diameter measurements (each 15 mm) seem to be inaccurate. Hence, they were disregarded.

readings are quite erratic; apparently the coin strikers in the mint of Sis did not pay attention to the die axis.

Conclusion

The present corpus confirms the data that Bedoukian obtained nearly five decades ago. Bedoukian weight readings, low 1.9 grams, average 2.4 grams, high 2.7 grams.¹² We need to keep in mind that Bedoukian took readings for only 6 copper pieces.¹³

ABBREVIATIONS

- AC&B—Y. T. Nercessian, *Armenian Coins and Books* [AC&B], *Bulletin* 12 (1986), 17 (1994), 18 (1996), 19 (1998), 20 (2001) Pico Rivera, CA.
- ACV—Y. T. Nercessian, *Armenian Coins and Their Values* [ACV]. Los Angeles: Armenian Numismatic Society, *Special Publication*, No. 8, 1995.
- AD—Asbed Donabedian coll. or “Ancient and Medieval Coins from the Collection of Professor Asbed Donabedian,” *Spink Coin Auction* 102. London: 2 March 1994.
- BM—British Museum.
- BN—Bibliothèque Nationale de France.
- Bourgey—Bourgey, *Numismatique Collection N. K.* Paris: 27 October 1992.
- Boutin—S. Boutin, *Collection N. K.: Monnaies des Empires de Byzance ... Monnaies de l'Arménie Artaxiate et de l'Arménie Cilicienne*. Maastricht: 1983.
- CCA—Paul Z. Bedoukian, *Coinage of Cilician Armenia* (New York, 1962; Vienna, 1963; revised edition, Danbury, Connecticut, 1979).
- CNG 27—Classical Numismatic Group, Inc. *Auction XXVII, A Mail Bid Auction Sale*. Quarryville, Pennsylvania: 29 September 1993.
- CNG 36—Classical Numismatic Group, Inc. *Auction XXXVI, A Public and Mail Bid Sale*. Lancaster, Pennsylvania: 5-6 December 1995.
- CNG 46—Classical Numismatic Group, Inc. *Auction 46, A Mail Bid Sale*. Lancaster, Pennsylvania: 24 June 1998.
- CNG 61—Classical Numismatic Group, Inc. *Auction 61; A Mail Bid Auction Sale*. Lancaster, Pennsylvania: 25 September 2002.
- CS—Credit Suisse, *Auction 4: Important Ancient & Mediaeval Coins Including an Armenian & Judaean Collection*. Berne: 3 December 1985.
- Demirjian—T. Demirjian, *Catalogue I* (1973), II (1974), V (1976), Riverdale: NY.
- Ebayan—A. A. Ebayan, *The Coins of the Armenian Kings of Cilicia*. Beirut: 1973, (bilingual in Armenian and English).
- Erevan—History Museum of Armenia in Erevan.
- GS—Charles Gary Setian coll.
- JS—Sotheby's. *The John J. Slocum Collection of Coins of the Crusades*. London: 6-7 March, 1997.
- Kevoorkian—Raymond H. Kévoorkian, *Arménie entre Orient et Occident*. Paris: Bibliothèque Nationale de France, 1996.

¹² Bedoukian, CCA, p. 111.

¹³ I would like to extend my thanks to Jirair Christianian, Charles Gary Setian, and Paul Mike Goorjian for participating in this project.

KK—K. Kalayjian coll.

MA—"Armenian Coin Auction of Dr. Mesrop Abgarians," Y. T. Nercessian, *Auction III: Mail Bid Auction*. Pico Rivera, CA: 2 June 1998.

MAC—Paul Z. Bedoukian, *Medieval Armenian Coins*. Paris: 1971, reprinted from *Revue des Études Arméniennes*, New Series, Vol. VIII (1971), pp. 365-431; also in SNS [I], pp. 191-268.

MM—Mardikian Museum (now "Cilicia" Museum), Antelias, Lebanon.

MM12—Auctiones AG. Auktion 12: Münzen der antike, des mittellalters und der neuzeit. Basel: 29-30 September 1981.

NK—*Numismatique Collection N.[adia] K.[apamadjian]*, see Bourgey and Boutin.

Panossian—See CNG 61.

PB—Paul Z. Bedoukian coll.

PG—Paul Mike Goorjian coll.

SNS [I]—Paul Z. Bedoukian, *Selected Numismatic Studies [I]*. Los Angeles: Armenian Numismatic Society, *Special Publication*, No. 1, 1981.

WM—Mekhitarist Congregation Museum in Vienna.

YN—Y. T. Nercessian coll.

Zoubov—B. V. Zoubov collection preserved in the Historical Museum in Moscow.

ԿՈՍՏԱՆԴԻՆ Ա. ԹԱԿԱԻՈՐԻՆ (1298-1299) ՊՂՆՁԵԱՅ ԴՐԱՄՆԵՐԸ

(Հաշուեկշիռ)

[Ամփոփում]

Ջարեհ Պտուկեանի Կլիկեան Հայաստան դրամահատութեան նուիրուած վիթխարի մենագլըրութեան մէջ ցուցակագրուած են Կոստանդին Ա թագաւորին վերագրուած 24 պղնձեայ դրամներ, ճանցուած որպէս քարտէզ:

Կոստանդին Ա-ի պղնձները ունին միօրինակ պատկերատիպ մը. Երեսին վրայ պատկերուած է թագաւորին լրիւ հասակը ոտքի կանգնած, թագակիր, հանդիպահայեաց, աջ ձեռքով բռնած է վեր բարձրացուցած մերկ սուր մը, ձախով՝ խաչ մը: Երեսի ու կոնակի խորագրութիւնները երկու մարգարտաշար շրջանակներու միջև. Ետին քանդակուած է հաւասարաթև պարզ խաչ մը կամ լատինական խաչ մը ինչպէս որ Պտուկեան կոչած է:

Երեսի ու կոնակի շրջագրութեանց մէջ, ցարդ Պտուկեանի հրատարակածէն տարբեր այլ նորութիւններ չեն յայտնաբերուած:

Ետևի խաչերու թևերուն ծայրերը կան կէտեր, որոնց զանազան թևերուն վրայ երևնալը ստղծած է կոնակի պատկերատիպի տարբերակներ. Սակայն աւելի քան 46 առ հարիւրը քանդակուած են պարզ հաւասարաթև խաչով՝ առանց կէտի:

Մեզի հասած տեղեկութեանց համաձայն կարելի եղած է դասաւորել 75 կտոր քարտէշներ: Ասոնց 43-ը ունին իրենց կշիռները, որոնց միջինն է 2.51 գրամ: Քարտէշներուն միայն 23 հատին տրամագիծերը տրուած են, որոնց միջինն է 21.30 մմ:

Ե. Թ. Ներսիսեան

ARMENIAN NUMISMATIC LITERATURE

1 IBNS. New Notes: Armenia. *Inside IBNS*, No. 3/06, p. 14, illus.

The new (2006) 10,000-dram bank note of Republic of Armenia is illustrated. The portrait of poet Avetik Issahakian (1875-1957) is at the left; on the back, the panorama of a city with several churches. YTN

Պատկերում է Հայաստանի Հանրապետության 10,000 դրամնոց նոր (2006) թղթադրամը: Բանաստեղծ Աւետիք Իսահակեանի (1875-1957) դիմանկարը կայ ձախ կողմը, իսկ ետին՝ քաղաքի մը և քանի մը եկեղեցիներու համախառնակերը: ԵԹՆ

2 GÖKYILDIRIM, Turan. Türkiye'den Artaksiad Hanedani'na ait bir define (1991) [A Hoard from Turkey Belonging to the Ataxiad Dynasty (1991)], Turan Gökyıldırım tarafından. Editors Haluk Perk and Hüsnü Öztürk, Istanbul: Turkish Numismatic Society, *Sevgi Gönül, Hatıra Sayısı*, 2005, pp. 19-39, 40-45 pls. Text in Turkish, catalogue and summary in English

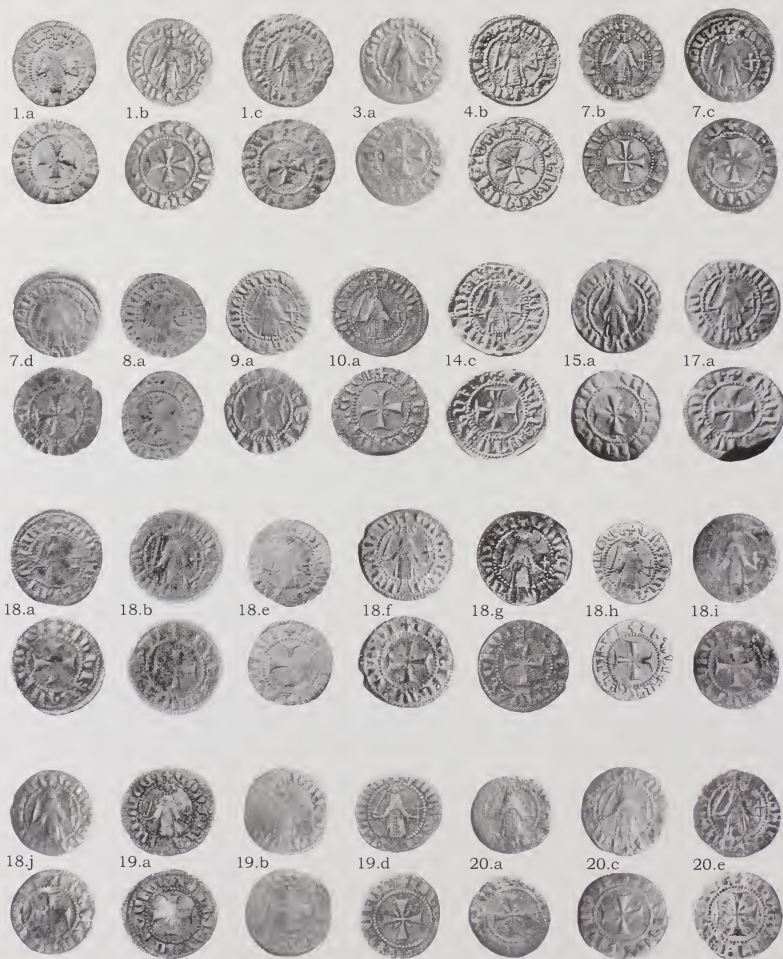
A hoard of copper coins, intercepted by Turkish custom agents in 1991, belonging to the Artaxiad dynasty of Armenia, is described. The composition of this 387 piece parcel consists of 1 coin with a portrait to left and a tree on the reverse given to Tigranes II; other coins attributed to Tigranes II include Tyche 110 pieces, Nike 79 pieces, Heracles 68, tripod 9, palm-branch 26, ear of corn 20, cornucopia 55, horse 2, uncertain 11, mountain range 1; 5 pieces attributed to Artavasdes have nike on the reverses. The published catalogue for each coin includes the legend, field letters and monograms, and metrological data (weight, diameter, die axis orientation). YTN

Նկարագրում է Արտաշեսեան հարստութեան պատկանող պղնձեայ դրամներու գտնմէ մը, գրաւումէ՝ թրքական սահմանի մագաղային պաշտօնեաներու կողմէ 1991-ին: Այս 387 կտորէ բաղկացած խումբը կը պարունակէ 1 դրամ ուր դիմանկարը դէպի ձախ է ու ետին՝ քանդակուած է ծառ մը և տրուած է Տիգրան Բ-ին, այլ դրամներ վերագրուած Տիգրան Բ-ին կը պարունակեն Անտիոքի Բախտ 110 կտոր, Յաղթանակ 79, Վահագն 68, Էռոտանի 9, արմաւենիի ճիւղ 26, հասկ 20, ամաթեղջիւր 55, ձի 2, անորոշ 11, երկու լեռներ 1: Արտաւազդ Բ-ին վերագրուած 5 կտորի ետին Յաղթանակը դրուագուած է: Հրատարակուած ցուցակագրութիւնը իւրաքանչիւր դրամին համար կը պարունակէ խորագրութիւնը, դաշտի տառերն ու մենագիրները, և չափադիտական տուեալները (կշիռ, տրամագիծ, առանցքային ուղղութիւն): ԵԹՆ

3 NERCESSIAN, Y. T. *Armenian Coin Auctions - Հայկական դրամներու աճուրդները*, by Y. T. Nercessian. Los Angeles: Armenian Numismatic Society, *Special Publication*, No. 12, 2006, vi, 118 pp., 96 pls. Armenian summaries.

The publication is a collective of articles penned by the author on Armenian coin auctions of [Münzen und Medaillen] Auktion 12 (1981), Credit Suisse (1985), Gerhard Hirsch 161, 163, 166 (1989-1990), Nadia Kapamadjian (1992), Classical Numismatic Group (1993), Asbed Donabedian (1994), Nicholas Jamgochian (1994), Araratian Collection Parts I (1995), II (1998), and III (1999), John Slocum (1997), Edward Joseph (1997), Mesrop Abgarians (1998), lead seals of George Zacos (1998-1999), Classical Numismatic Group Auctions 58 and Triton V (2001, 2002), and Manauel Panossian (2002). Author

Հրատարակութիւնը ժողովածու մըն է հեղինակին յօդուածներուն, որոնք շարահիսուած են [Մունզէն ու յէ մեդալլէն] Auktion 12 (1981), Քրէտիսիթ Սուիս (1985), Կերհարդ Հիրշ 161, 163, 166 (1989-1990), Նուարդ Գափամաճեան (1992), Կլասիկալ Նիւմիսմատիկ Գրուպ (1993), Ասպետ Տօնապետեան (1994), Նիքքըլըս Ժամուդեան (1994), «Արարատեան» Հաւաքածոյի բաժիններ I (1995), II (1998), և III (1999), Ճոհն Սլոքում (1997), Էդուարդ Ժոզէֆ (1997), Մեսրոպ Արգարեանց (1998), Ժօրճ Զակոսի բլուզանդահայ արճիճէ կնիքներ (1998-1999), Կլասիկալ Նիւմիսմատիկ Գրուպ 58 և Triton V (2001, 2002), և Մանուէլ Փանոսեան հայկական դրամներու աճուրդներուն վրայ: Հեղինակը



Y. T. Nercessian, Copper Coins of King Gosdantin I (1298-1299)

METROLOGY OF CILICIAN ARMENIAN COINAGE

PREFACE

In Armenian numismatics, one of the major obstacles to research is the lack of metrological tables indicating the weight, diameter, and die axis orientation of coins. The lack of such information is very apparent to a researcher. Up to the present time, a work comprised of adequate metrological tables, has not been available on Cilician Armenian coinage.

Since 1962 we have had Dr. Paul Z. Bedoukian's monumental treatise, *Coinage of Cilician Armenia*, where a very extensive corpus of 10,503 coins exists (CCA p. 125) and metrological data for only 817 coins (CCA pp. 109-112). However, it should be noted that when Bedoukian had sufficient examples to work with, such as Levon I and Hetoum-Zabel trams, his metrological analysis has been outstanding. On the other hand, for some coins like Levon I double trams, half trams, Guy silver takvorins, Levon V billons and copper coins, just to mention a few of them, Bedoukian had very limited examples to work with. A larger supply of samples would inspire more confidence to a researcher who is faced with metrological analysis.

Metrological data tables with considerable number of figures on weights and diameters will make the task of a researcher less laborious. Hence, by utilizing metrological tables and widely ranging data, he will be able to allocate more time on his actual subject, move faster and make rapid progress in his task at hand. By referencing a published reliable metrological data source his article would be much shorter and the reader will not be subjected to face columns and columns of annoying data on same and different denominations of coins. Instead, a reader can be presented with a synopsis.

Data compiled in the *Metrology of Cilician Armenian Coinage* was extracted from author's collection, CCA, all other published scholarly works, and sale and auction catalogues. If a published source lacked at least the weight on a particular coin, it was not utilized in our tabulation. Very rare coins and their place of preservation were noted for posterity. Having this in mind, data tabulated in this work should not be construed as the total coinage of that respective ruler. In fact, the data catalogued here could represent a small fraction of total coins struck by that particular ruler of Cilician Armenia. For example for king Levon II there are 5 half trams with complete inscriptions, 4 of them are known to the writer of this note and only the weights of two pieces are accessible. However, the range of the data presented here should be considered very extensive (more than 9,000 coins), and definitely is an improvement, compared to what has been available in the past. The extant of rare and very scarce coins, such as Gosdantin I trams, 37 pieces are known but the weights of only 26 pieces are accessible. This may not seem to be very extensive for a metrological analysis; but when we consider that only the weights of 3 trams were known in 1962, 26 pieces may look like a very great stride.

At the end of each ruler's coinage, a table summarizes the number of coins catalogued and utilized to chart the average weights. The average of diameters is only tabulated. No effort is made to compute the average of die axis orientation since they seem to be erratic.

Y. T. NERCESSIAN

ABBREVIATIONS

- AC&B—Y. T. Nercessian, *Armenian Coins and Books* [AC&B], *Bulletin* 3 (1973), 4 (1973/4), 5 (1975), 6 (1976), 7 (1977), 8 (1978), 9 (1979), 10 (1980), 11 (1985), 12 (1986), 13 (1989), 14 (1990), 15 (1991), 16 (1992), 17 (1994), 18 (1996), 19 (1998), 20 (2001), 21 (2001), 23 (2002), 25 (2003), 28 (2005), Pico Rivera, CA.
- ACV—Y. T. Nercessian, *Armenian Coins and Their Values* [ACV]. Los Angeles: Armenian Numismatic Society, *Special Publication*, No. 8, 1995.
- AD—Spink & Son, Ltd. "Ancient and Medieval Coins from the Collection of Professor Asbed Donabedian (1923-1993)," *Coin Auction 102: Ancient, Foreign and English Coins and Commemorative Medals*. London: March 1994, pp. 12-32.
- AM—Alex Malloy, Auction Sale XXXVI (22 September 1993).
- ANJ—*Armenian Numismatic Journal*.
- ANS—American Numismatic Society.
- AN—Armen Nercissiantz coll.
- Art—Ibrahim Artuk and Cevriye Artuk, *Catalogue of the Islamic Coins Exhibited at the Archaeological Museums of Istanbul*. Istanbul: 1971, Vol. I.
- Bal—Paul Balog, *The Coinage of the Mamlūk Sultans of Egypt and Syria*. New York: 1964, pp. 146-147, pl. VIII, Nos. 213a-213f.
- BG—Berj M. Garabetian, "The King Oshin Half Tram of Catholicos Sahak Khapaian," *Handes Anshorya*, Vol. CI (January-December 1987), Nos. 1-12, pp. 695-697.
- BN or BNF—Bibliothèque Nationale de France.
- BNubar—Bibliothèque Nubar, Paris.
- BO—Paul Z. Bedoukian "A Hoard of Coronation Trams of Oshin," SNS II, pp. 153-164; reprinted from ANJ, Ser. I, Vol. XXIII (1997), No. 1, pp. 3-11.
- Br—E. Bourgey, *Numismatique Collection N. K.: Monnaies Byzantines, Barbares, Orient Latin, Arméniennes*. Paris: 1992.
- Bt—S. Boutin, *Collection N. K.: Monnaies des Empires de Byzance ... Monnaies de l'Arménie Artaxiate et de l'Arménie Cilicienne*. Maastricht: 1983.
- CCA—Paul Z. Bedoukian, *Coinage of Cilician Armenia*. New York: 1962; Vienna: 1963; revised edition, Danbury, Connecticut: 1979.
- CC—Paul Z. Bedoukian, "Coinage of Constantine III and IV, Kings of Lesser Armenia," *American Numismatic Society Museum Notes*, Vol. VI (1954), pp. 193-199. pl. XX; also in SNS [I], pp. 5-12.
- CH—Chuck Hajinian coll.
- CNG—Classical Numismatic Group, Inc. *Auction* 27 (29 September 1993), 36 (5-6 December 1995), 37 (20 March 1996), 46 (24 June 1998), 51 (15 September 1999), 58 (19 September 2001), 61 (25 Sept. 2002), 69 (8 June 2005), 72 (14 June 2006), Lancaster, Pennsylvania.
- CS—Credit Suisse, *Auction 4: Important Ancient & Mediaeval Coins Including an Armenian & Judaean Collection*. Berne: 3 December 1985.
- DM—Dmitry Markov, *Mail Bid Auction No. 7*. New York City: 29-30 September 1999.
- EJ—"Numismatic Collection of Emil [Edward] Joseph," Y. T. Nercessian, *Auction I: Mail Bid Auction*. Pico Rivera, CA: 2 May 1997.

Abbreviations

- Er—History Museum of Armenia, Erevan.
FM—Fitzwilliam Museum.
FS—Sternberg, Frank. *Auktion XXII*. Zurich: 20-21 November 1989.
GIUnp.LS—L. A. Saryan, "An Unpublished Silver Double *Tram* of Gosdantin I (1298-1299), King of Cilician Armenia," *American Journal of Numismatics*, Second Series, Vol. 12 (2000), pp. 195-204, pl. 26
GM—Garo Matossian coll.
GS—Charles Gary Setian coll.
H1—Y. T. Nercessian, "Tram Hoards of Levon I," *Studies*, pp. 243-275; reprinted from ANJ, Ser. I, Vol. XIX (March 1993), No. 1, pp. 3-24.
H2—Y. T. Nercessian, "A Small Hoard of Levon II Trams," *Studies*, pp. 322-333; reprinted from ANJ, Ser. I, Vol. XVIII (March 1992), No. 4, pp. 63-69.
H3—Y. T. Nercessian, "A Hoard of Levon III Takvorins," *Studies*, pp. 369-389; reprinted from ANJ, Ser. I, Vol. XVIII (March 1992), No. 1, pp. 3-14.
H4—Levon A. Saryan and Charles A. Hajinian "Another Hoard of Levon III Takvorins," ANJ, Ser. I, Vol. XVIII (March 1992), No. 1, pp. 15-24, pl. 1.
H5—Levon A. Saryan, "More Takvorins of Levon III," ANJ, Ser. I, Vol. XVIII (Dec. 1992), No. 4, pp. 77-78.
H6—Levon A. Saryan, "A Silver Coin Hoard of Levon III and Oshin," ANJ, Ser. I, Vol. XX (June 1994), No. 2, pp. 25-34, pl. V.
H7—Paul Z. Bedoukian, "An Important Hoard of Gosdantin III, Levon the Usurper, and Gosdantin IV of Cilician Armenia," SNS [I], pp. 451-483; reprinted from Haigazian Armenological Review, Vol. III (1972), pp. 151-183 (in Armenian).
HF—Jules Fonrobert
HGh—H. Der Ghazarian coll.
Hirsch—Gerhard Hirsch Nachfolger, *Auktion 161: Münzen und Medaillen Antiken* (Munich, February 1989, September 1989, May 1990).
Inv.1—Y. T. Nercessian, "Coinage of the Barony of Cilician Armenia," ANJ Vol. XXVII (2001), No. 2, pp. 33-55, pls. 1-2.
Inv.2—Y. T. Nercessian, "Inventory of Cilician Armenian Gold Coins," *Studies*, pp. 207-223; reprinted from ANJ, Ser. I, Vol. XXIII (1997), No. 2, pp. 25-36.
JC—Jirair Christianian coll.
Jerusalem—Armenian Patriarchate in Jerusalem.
JG—J. Guevrekian.
JS—Sotheby's. *The John J. Slocum Collection of Coins of the Crusades*. London: 6-7 March, 1997.
Kev—Raymond H. Kévorkian, *Arménie entre Orient et Occident*. Paris: Bibliothèque Nationale de France, 1996.
KK—K. Kalajian coll.
Künker—Fritz Rudolph Künker Münzhandlung; *Katalog 97* (7-8 March 2005), 115 (25-27 September 2006), Osnabrück, Germany: .
LS—Levon A. Saryan coll.
MAC—Paul Z. Bedoukian, *Medieval Armenian Coins*. Paris: 1971, reprinted from *Revue des Études Arméniennes*, New Series, Vol. VIII (1971), pp. 365-431; also in SNS [I], pp. 191-268.
MA—"Armenian Coin Auction of Dr. Mesrop Abgarians," Y. T. Nercessian, *Auction III: Mail Bid Auction*. Pico Rivera, CA: 2 June 1998.
ME—M. Eretisian coll.

- MeTr—D. M. Metcalf, "Notes on the Classification of the Trams of Cilician Armenia, c.1200-1270), *Numismatic Chronicle*, Vol. 141 (1981), pp. 166-171, pls. 32-34.
- MHM—Historical Museum in Moscow.
- Mit—Michael Mitchiner, *Oriental Coins and Their Values; The World of Islam*. London: Hawkins Publications, 1977.
- MK—M. E. Karapetian, "The Coins of Roupenian Prince Toros," *Traber Hasarakakan Gitut'yunneri*, Vol. XXXIII (Nov. 1972), No. 11 (359), pp. 60-66, No. 5 (in Armenian).
- MM12—Auctiones AG. *Auktion 12: Münzen der antike, des mittelalters und der neuzeit*. Basel: 29-30 September 1981.
- MM—Mardikian Museum (now "Cilicia Museum," Antelias, Lebanon).
- MP—Manuel Panossian Coll. Classical Numismatic Group, Inc. *Auction* 61 (Sept. 25, 2002), Lancaster, Pennsylvania.
- M—D. M. Metcalf, "Double Trams of Levon I of Cilician Armenia," *Spink Numismatic Circular*, Vol. LXXXII (May and June 1974), Nos. 5 and 6, pp. 186-188 and 235-237, illus.
- NJ—Peus, Busso. *Auktion, Katalog 340: Sammlung Nicholas V. Jamgochian*. Frankfurt: November 1994.
- NK—Nadia Kapamadjian Collection.
- N—Paul Z. Bedoukian, "Two Hoards of Hetoum-Zabel Trams," SNS I, pp. 26-62; reprinted from American Numismatic Society *Museum Notes*, Vol. VIII (1958), pp. 145-180.
- PB-Unp-2—Paul Z. Bedoukian, "Two Unpublished Coins of King Smpad of Cilician Armenia: Propaganda in the Turbulent Decade 1289-1299," SNS II, pp. 142-151; reprinted from ANJ, Ser. I, Vol. XXI (1995), No. 2, pp. 63-68.
- PB—Paul Z. Bedoukian coll.
- Pegasi—*Pegasi Auctions* XI (19 Oct. 2004), XIII (8 Nov. 2005), XIV (11 Apr. 2006), XV (24 Oct. 2006), Ann Arbor, Michigan.
- Pegasi—Pegasi, *Buy or Bid Sale Catalog* 110 (16 Nov. 1998), 134 (2 Aug. 2006), Ann Arbor, Michigan.
- PG—Paul Mike Goorjian coll.
- PH—Armenak Poladian coll.
- Rauch—Auktionhaus H. D. Rauch, 76. *Münzenauktion*. Vienna: 17-18 October 2005.
- Rb—Reshad bey coll.
- RII—Paul Z. Bedoukian "A Rare Copper Coin of Baron Roupen II (1175-1187) of Cilician Armenia," SNS II, pp. 94-98; reprinted from ANJ, Ser. I, Vol. XVII (1991), No. 4, pp. 49-52.
- RI—Paul Z. Bedoukian "Coinage of Roupen I (1080-1095)," SNS II, pp. 88-93; reprinted from *Handes Amssorya*, Vol. CV (1991), pp. 123-126.
- RK—Robert Kutcher coll.
- RP—Roberto Pesant, "Comments on a Rare Coin of Roupen II (1175-1187)," ANJ, Ser. I, Vol. XV (1989), pp. 67-72.
- Sch—Munzhandlung Schulten + Co. GmbH. Cologne: 15-17 October 1990.
- SC—Au. Sekoulian, "The Two Lion Silver Coronation Coins of Levon I in the Mekhitarist Museum in Vienna," *Handes Amssorya*, Vol. LXXXIV (July-September 1970), Nos. 7-9, pp. 365-370 (in Armenian).
- Sek—Au. Sekoulian, *The Coins of Gosdantin III-Levon V in the Mekhitarist Museum in Vienna* (Vienna, 1982), pp. 1-90; reprinted from *Handes Amssorya*, Vol. LXXXV (January- March, April to June 1970), Nos. 1-3, 4-6, pp. 75-98, 207-238 (in Armenian).
- SGIII—See above, Sek.

Abbreviations

- SGIV—See above, Sek.
- SHII—Au. Sekoulian, "The Second Type of Copper Coins of Hetoum II in the Mekhitarist Museum in Vienna," *Handes Amsorya*, Vol. LXXXIV (April-June 1970), Nos. 4-6, pp. 209-230 (in Armenian); reprinted in *Numismatic Studies, Hetoum II, Levon III, and Oshin* (Vienna, 1982), pp. 1-35 (in Armenian).
- SLIII—Au. Sekoulian, "The Copper Coins of Levon III (1306-1307) in the Mekhitarist Museum in Vienna," *Handes Amsorya*, Vol. LXXXVI (April-June, July-September 1972), Nos. 4-6, 7-9, pp. 225-238, 373-382 (in Armenian); reprinted in *Numismatic Studies, Hetoum II, Levon III, and Oshin* (Vienna, 1982), pp. 37-74 (in Armenian).
- SLUsr—See above, Sek.
- SLV—See above, Sek.
- Smpad—Paul Z. Bedoukian, "A Silver Hoard of Smpad of Cilician Armenia," *SNS II*, pp. 134-141; reprinted from *ANJ*, Ser. I, Vol. XXI (1995), No. 2, pp. 59-62.
- SNS (I)—Paul Z. Bedoukian, *Selected Numismatic Studies I* (Los Angeles, 1981), 570 pp.
- SNS II—Paul Z. Bedoukian, *Selected Numismatic Studies II* (Los Angeles, 2003), 376 pp., 61 pls.
- SO—Au. Sekoulian, "The Silver Coins of Oshin in the Mekhitarist Museum in Vienna," *Handes Amsorya*, Vol. LXXXVI (January-March 1972), Nos. 1-3, pp. 95-110 (in Armenian); reprinted in *Numismatic Studies, Hetoum II, Levon III, and Oshin* (Vienna, 1982), pp. 75-101 (in Armenian).
- Stone—Michael E. Stone, "A Rare Armenian Coin from Jerusalem," *Israel Numismatic Journal*, Vol. IV (1980), pp. 77-78, pl. 20.
- Studies—Y. T. Nersessian, *Armenian Numismatic Studies* (Los Angeles, 2000), 678 pp., 96 pls.
- SU—USSR People's Historical Museum coll.
- s—Similar.
- VB—Vatsche Barsoumian coll.
- VM—Mekhitarist Museum in Venice.
- v—Variant or variety.
- Vrt.—Levon Vrtanesyan, "A Unique Kardez of Levon III (1301-1307) King of Cilician Armenia," *ANJ*, Ser. II, Vol. 2 (32), (December 2006), No. 4, p. 73, p. 8.
- Weyl—Adolph Weyl. *Verzeichniss von Münzen und Denkmünzen der Erdtheile Australien, Asien, Afrika und verschiedener mohammedanischer Dynastien der Jules Ffonrobert'schen Sammlung*. Berlin: 1878.
- WM—Mekhitarist Museum in Vienna.
- Woodhead—P. Woodhead, "Two Small Armenian Hoard Groups," *Spink Numismatic Circular*, Vol. XCV (May 1987), No. 4, pp. 107-109, Nos. 1 (3238) and 2 (3239), illus.
- YN—Y. T. Nersessian coll.
- Zu—M.-L. Garabedian, "B. V. Zoubov's Roupenian Coin Collection," Part I (Levon I), *ANJ* Ser. I, XXVIII (2002), No. 3, pp. 67-84; Part II (Hetoum I), *ANJ*, Ser. I, Vol. XXIX (2003), No. 1, pp. 13-32; Part III (Levon II, Hetoum II, Smpad, Gosdantin I), Vol. XXX (2004), No. 2, pp. 29-44; Part IV (Levon III, Oshin, Levon IV, Guy, Gosdantin III, Gosdantin IV, Levon V), *ANJ* Vol. XXX (2004), No. 3, pp. 59-82.
- Note: CCA1575PB = CCA or the first abbreviated letters refer to the publication, 1575 or the numerals refer to the corpus or catalogue number, and the PB or the last abbreviated letters refer to the private or museum collection.

BARONIAL COPPER COINS

Roupen I (1080-1095), Gosdantin I (1092-1100),

Toros I (1100-1129), Levon I (1129-1137),

Toros II (1144-1168), Roupen II (1175-1187), Levon II (1187-1198),

No.	CCA ACV	Metrological Data wt.-diam.-die axis	Source	No.	CCA ACV	Metrological Data wt.-diam.-die axis	Source
Roupen I (1080-1095)				Toros I (1100-1129)			
	245		(5) JS479			MHM	
	1		AC&B17B-345			Jerusalem	
1	1	1.36g-21ø	CS4-688	2a		20ø	RII6WM
2	1	1.53g-22ø	AC&B11-41	2a		18ø	AD230
3	245	1.65g-21ø	CNG36-708	2a		17ø	AD231
4	245	2.17g-20ø	CNG61-2307	1		0.75g-17ø	RII5PB
5	245	2.20g-21ø	JS478	2	246	1.64g-18ø	JS480
6	245	2.21g-22ø	CNG46-711	3		2.05g-18ø	Br860NK
7	245	2.21g-21ø-3h	YN	4	2a	2.17g-15ø	CNG27-84
8	1	2.40g-21ø	CCA1PB	5		2.33g-18ø	SU
9	245	2.52g-21ø	JS476	6	2a	2.45g-18ø	CCA2aPB
10	245	2.70g-21ø	CNG61-2308	7	2a	2.47g-19ø	CS4-689
11	245	2.70g-21ø	CNG61-2309	8	246	2.52g-18ø-1h	YN
12	245	3.46g-22ø	JS474	9	3	3.20g-19ø	Br861NK
13	245	3.70g-23ø-5h	AC&B21-19	x	2a	3.41g	Kev191'BN
Avg.=30.81+13=2.37g weight				10	3	3.45g-19ø	Inv.1-16PB
Avg.=277+13=21.31mm diameter				11	1	3.52g-17ø	Inv.1-16PB
				Avg.=26.55+11=2.41g weight			
				Avg.=251+14=17.93mm diameter			
Gosdantin I (1092-1100)				Levon I (1129-1137)			
	1	24ø	AD224	1		1.59g-18ø	Inv.1-18,JS473
	1	21ø	AD225	2		1.96g-18ø	Inv.1-17,JS472
	1	21ø	CCA1WM	Avg.=3.55+2=1.78g weight			
	1	(12) AD226-229		Avg.=36+2=18mm diameter			
1	245	1.72g-21ø	JS477	Toros II (1144-1168)			
2	245	1.85g-20ø	JS475		3	20ø	AD232
3	245	2.06g-20ø	CNG72-2293	1	3	1.25g	RII7PB
4	1a	2.50g-19ø	CNG27-83	2	3	1.30g-19ø	RII8PB
5	245	2.59g-22ø	CNG36-707	3	247	1.30g-19ø	CNG36-710
6	1	3.43g-21ø	RI-6PB	4	3	1.51g-18ø	CS4-690
7		3.64g-21ø	RI-7PB	5	247	4.09g-24ø	CNG46-712
Avg.=17.79+7=2.54g weight				Avg.=9.45+5=1.89g weight			
Avg.=210+10=21mm diameter				Avg.=100+5=20mm diameter			
Toros I (1100-1129)							
(2)MK							

Baronial Copper Coins

No.	CCA	Metrological Data	Source
	ACV	wt.-diam.-die axis	

Roupen II (1175-1187)

		20ø	WM
			Er
1	249	1.24g-21ø	CNG36-712
2		1.45g-24ø	MAC7PB
3		1.45g-22ø	RP-VM
4		1.48g-23ø	RII-note 9PB
5	249	1.59g-21ø	JS481
6	248	2.13g-22ø	CNG36-711
Avg.=9.34g+6=1.56g weight			
Avg.=153+7=21.86mm diameter			

Levon II (1187-1198)

			(2) BN
			EM
			HGh
			ME
			MM
			BNubar
			VM
4	25ø	AD233	
4	25ø	AD236	
4	25ø 4)	AD234, 5, 7, 8	
1		1.31g	Inv.1-29LS
2	250	1.94g-22ø	JS485

No.	CCA	Metrological Data	Source
	ACV	wt.-diam.-die axis	

Levon II cont.)

3	250	2.08g-20ø-12h	YN
4	250	2.11g-21ø-9h	YN
5	4	2.15g	Inv.1-29WM
6	4	2.25g	Inv.1-29WM
7	250	2.45g-21ø-3h	YN
8	251	2.51g-23ø	JS483
9	250	2.52g-22ø	JS485
10	4	2.57g-22ø	AC&B5-23
11	4	2.60g-23ø	MAC8PB
12	4	2.65g	RII10WM
13	4	2.74g-22ø	CS-691
14	250	2.76g-20ø-9h	YN
15	4	3.14g-21ø	AC&B11-42
16	4	3.18g-27ø	CS4-692
17	250	3.38g-22ø	JS484
18	4	3.45g	Inv.1-29WM
19	252	3.75g-24ø	CNG27-85
20	251	3.81g-23ø	JS482
21	252	3.93g-23ø	CNG36-713
22	252	4.05g-23ø-4h	CNG72-2294
23	4	5.11g-26ø	MM12-765
Avg.=66.44+23=2.89g weight			
Avg.=475+21=22.62mm diameter			

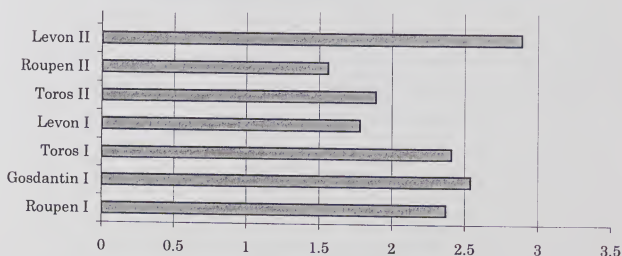


Chart I. Baronial copper coin averages

Table 1. *Number of coins used to calculate the average weights of baronial coppers*

Ruler	Number of coins	Average weight
Roupen I (1080-1095)	13	2.37g
Gosantin I (1092-1100)	7	2.54g
Toros I (1100-1129)	11	2.41g
Levon I (1129-1137)	2	1.78g
Toros II (1144-1168)	5	1.89g
Roupen II (1175-1187)	6	1.56g
Levon II (1187-1198)	23	2.89g
TOTAL	67	

Table 2. *Number of coins used to calculate the average diameters of baronial coppers*

Ruler	Number of coins	Average diameter
Roupen I (1080-1095)	13	21.31mm
Gosantin I (1092-1100)	10	21mm
Toros I (1100-1129)	14	17.93mm
Levon I (1129-1137)	2	18mm
Toros II (1144-1168)	5	20mm
Roupen II (1175-1187)	7	21.86mm
Levon II (1187-1198)	21	22.62mm
TOTAL	72	

ROYAL GOLD COINS

Levon I (1198-1219), Levon I-Hetoum I (or Hetoum I-Levon II), Gosdantin I (1298-1299)

No.	CCA ACV	Metrological Data wt.-diam.-die axis	Source
-----	------------	---	--------

Levon I (1198-1219)

One-Lion Tahekan

1	253	4.80g	Inv.2-IcEr
2	253	5.33g	Kev191 ³ BN
3	253	5.40g	Inv.2-IaANS

Avg.=15.53g+3=5.18g weight

Two-Lion Tahekan

1	254	6.25g	Inv.2-IIcWM
2	254	6.32g	Kev191 ³ BN
3	254	6.90g	Inv.2-IIcHermitage
4	254	7.00g	Inv.2-IIbVM
5	254	7.09g	Inv.2-IIaEx-NK

Avg.=33.56g+5=6.71g weight

Two-Lion Half Tahekan

1	255	2.21g	Künker97-2127
2	255	2.45g	Inv.2-IIIaLA
3		3.40g	Inv.2-IIIb

Avg.=8.06g+3=2.69g weight

No.	CCA ACV	Metrological Data wt.-diam.-die axis	Source
-----	------------	---	--------

Levon I-Hetoum I (Hetoum I-Levon II) Tahekan

1	315	5.30g	Inv.2-IVaWM
2	315	5.85g	Inv.2-IVbVM

Avg.=11.15g+2=5.58g weight

Gosdantin I (1298-1299) Tahekan

1	414	3.60g	Inv.2-VbVM
2	414	3.65g	Inv.2-Valstanbul

Avg.=7.25g+2=3.63g weight

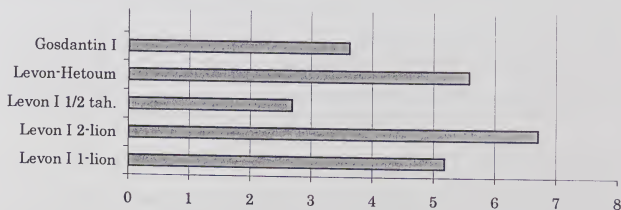


Chart II. Royal tahekan averages

Table 3. Number of gold coins used to calculate the averages of royal tahekan

Ruler	Number of gold coins	Average value
Levon I (1198-1219) 1-lion tahekan	3	5.18g
Levon I 2-lion tahekan	5	6.71g
Levon I 2-lion half tahekan	3	2.69g
Levon-Hetoum or Hetoum-Levon tahekan	2	5.58g
Gosantin I (1298-1299) tahekan	2	3.63g
TOTAL	15	

ARMENIAN NUMISMATIC SOCIETY SHIPPED COIN BOOKS AND CATALOGUES TO ARMENIA

It has been a tradition of the Armenian Numismatic Society to ship copies of its publications and Western sale and auction catalogues to Armenia. The Society has been doing this for the past few decades.

In Yerevan, the staff of Numismatics Section, History Museum of Armenia, has been very kind to undertake the responsibility of distribution of these books to the schools of higher education in Armenia and Artsakh.

Additionally, the Society collects sale and auction catalogues, accumulates them for a few years, and then ships them to the Numismatics Section's library, where they carry on their research projects, since most of these catalogues include a wide range of information on ancient and medieval coins relating to the history of Armenia.

Recently, in May 2006, the Society shipped a large supply of *Armenian Numismatic Journals*, more than a few hundred books of its *Special Publication* series, and several hundred sale and auction catalogues. All of them packed into 12 cardboard boxes occupying close to 12 cubic ft. space. The retail market value is estimated close to \$12,000.

The shipment of this numismatic literature was made through the courtesy of Armenian Gospel Mission, based in Pasadena, California. The A.G.M. president is Mr. Stephen Lazarian. The A.G.M. raises money in the United States and every few months ships a cargo container full of useable clothing, furnishings, medical equipment, medicine, and food stuffs to Armenia, where they have mission programs, as well as day schools for hundreds of students, feeding them, giving them their education, as well as Gospel message.

The Armenian Numismatic Society is very thankful to the Armenian Gospel Mission and Mr. Lazarian for their help in shipping our numismatic literature to Armenia.

According to the October 4, 2006 dated e-mail of Dr. Ruben Vardanyan, curator of the Numismatics Section, all of the numismatic literature have been delivered to their destination safely, intact, and in good condition.

Those who would like to donate numismatic literature (or cash contribution) to the History Museum of Armenia, may contact the Armenian Numismatic Society at 8511 Beverly Park Place, Pico Rivera, California 90660, U. S. A. or by e-mail at ArmNumSoc@aol.com.

Y. T. Nercessian



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JOURNAL

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Y. T. NERCESSIAN

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2007

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COINS

Tigranes II (95-56 B.C.), copper coins

1. Tyche. Obv.: Bust of Tigranes draped r. wearing five-pointed Armenian tiara. Rev.: Tyche of Antioch. f/m Δ /H.A. ACV 50, CAA 94v, 5.36-18mm-11h, F+/-VF \$180
2. --. ACV50, CAA93, 5.03g-18mm-10h, F+ \$150
3. --. ACV50, CAA93, 4.08g-18mm-11h, F+/-VF \$180
4. Heracles. ACV 66, CAA 101V, 3.53g-16mm-1h, F+VF \$225
5. --. ACV67, CAA101V, 2.58g-15mm-12h, F+VF \$200
6. Cornucopia. ACV94, CAA104V, 2.10g-14mm-11h, F+/-VF \$180
7. --. ACV95, CAA105V, 4.20g-15mm-12h, F+ \$150
8. --. ACV96, CAA105V, 2.59g-15mm-11h, F+ \$150

ROMAN COINS RELATING TO ARMENIA

9. Marcus Aurelius, denarius (A.D. 161-180). Rev.: Armenia std. I. in mournful attitude. Bed 406V, RIC 80, AR 3.61g-17.5mm-6h. Legend includes ARMEN. VF+ \$600
10. --. Bed 406, RIC82, AR 3.54-18mm-6h. Legend includes ARMEN. FDC \$495
11. --. Bed 406, RIC 82(a), AR 3.60g-17mm-12h. Legend includes ARMEN. EF \$400
12. --. Bed 406V, RIC 81, AR 3.38-18mm-6h. Legend includes ARMEN. VF+ \$300
13. --. Bed 406V, RIC 80, AR 2.96g-17mm-6h. Legend includes ARMEN. VF+ \$225
14. --. Bed 406V, RIC 81, AR 3.22g-17mm-6h. Legend includes ARMEN. VF/-VF \$175
15. --. Bed 406V, RIC 81, AR 2.45g-17mm-12h. Legend includes ARMEN. -VF \$100
16. Lucius Verus, As (A.D. 161-169). Rev.: Armenia std. I. in mournful attitude. Legend includes ARMEN. Bed 270V, RIC 1365, 11.30g-25mm-12h. VF+/-EF \$750

CILICIAN ARMENIAN COINS

Levon I (1198-1219), silver coins

17. Tram. Obv.: King seated on a throne ornamented with two lions, wearing a crown and royal mantle on his shoulders. Rev.: A long cross between two lions rampant regardant. ACV289V, CCA289, 2.89g-21mm-3h, VF+\$150
18. --. ACV293V, CCA431b, 3.06g-21mm-1h, VF \$50
19. --. ACV293V, CCA433, 2.85g-23mm-7h, F \$30
20. --. ACV291V, CCA612, 2.97g-21mm-7h, -VF \$45
21. --. ACV291V, CCA616v, 2.88g-22mm-10h, F+ \$40

Hetoum I (1226-1270), silver coins

22. Hetoum-Zabel Tram. Obv.: Queen Zabel standing on l. facing and King Hetoum standing on r. facing. Both figures are crowned and wearing royal vestments. Both are holding a long cross. Rev.: Lion walking r., with l. paw upturned.

- Cross behind lion. ACV341, CCA1139, 2.82g-21mm, 8h, VF+ \$130
23. --. ACV342v, CCA1192, 2.96g-21mm-4.5h, VF+ \$175
24. Kardez King seated. ACV364V, CCA1406, 3.25g-23mm-8h, F+ \$40
25. --. ACV364v, CCA1419v, 4.15g-22mm-3h, F/F+ \$40
26. Levon II (1270-1289), Tram. ACV371V, CCA 1445v, 2.82g-22mm-12h, VF \$200
27. --. ACV370V, CCA 1455, 2.71g-22mm-9h, VF \$275
28. Kardez. ACV387v, CCA1552V, 4.79g-26mm-3h, F \$30
29. --. ACV388v, CCA1574v, 3.26g-23mm-3h, -VF \$35

Levon IV (1320-1342), silver coins

30. Takvorin. ACV453s, CCA1971s, 2.45g-21mm-3h, Ex-Slocum collection, F+ \$40
31. --. ACV453v, CCA1973v, 1.94g-21mm-8h, -F \$40
32. Pogh. YN LIV 63V, 1.55g-16mm, -F \$40
33. --. ACV465v, CCA2017V, 0.99g-18mm-3h, VG+ \$25
34. --. ACV465v, CCA2015V, 1.37g-16mm-5h, VG+ \$25
35. --. ACV466v, CCA2019V, 1.72g-16mm-6h, -F \$40
36. --. YN LIV 45, 1.29g-15mm-12h, VG+ \$25
37. --. YN LIV 54, 1.21g-17mm-10h, VG+ \$25
38. Poglis. 3 coins. Avg. grade VG to VG+ \$50

USSR COINS relating to ARMENIA (1989-90)

39. Armenian earthquake coin, 3 rubles cupro-nickel, 1989, UNC \$10
40. Matenadaran, 5 r. cupro-nickel, proof, 1990.
 - a. With government mint display package \$35
 - b. With mint plastic envelope (sealed) \$30
41. Matenadaran coin as before, UNC, 1990 \$20
42. 1000 yr Christianity in Russia, 3 5-r. coins \$60

USSR Bonds (1936-1953)

43. 10 rubles, 1936, black, tan. EF \$30

REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA

44. Anahit, 25000 dram, 900 k. GOLD. UNC \$300
45. Apricot coin, 25 dram, AR proof \$75
46. Sardarapat Battle, 25 dram, AR proof \$75
47. David of Sasun coin, 25 dram, AR proof \$60
48. Garm coin, 25 dram, AR proof \$60
49. Jakharak coin, 1000 dram, AR proof \$60
50. Artsakh coin, 25 dram, AR proof \$90
51. United Nations, 100 dram, AR proof \$75
52. 32nd Chess Olympiad, 100 dram, AR proof \$50
53. 32nd Chess Olympiad, 100 dram, AR proof \$75
54. Bagrationian, Marshal. 100 dram, AR proof \$50
55. National Assembly, 500 dram, AR proof. 5oz \$250
56. Artaxiad Dynasty, 500 dram, AR proof. 5oz \$200
57. Arsacid Dynasty, 500 dram, AR proof. 5 oz \$200
58. Cilician Armenia, 500 dram, AR proof. 5 oz \$200

REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA (cont.)

59. Bagratid Dynasty, 500 dram, AR proof. 5 oz \$200

Cupronickel coins (1996-1997)

60. 32nd Chess Olympiad, 100 dram, Proof. \$15

61. 32nd Chess Olympiad, 100 dram, UNC \$3

62. Charents, 100 dram, UNC \$3

Aluminum coin set (1994)

63. 10, 20, or 50 luma, UNC, each piece \$2

64. 1, 3, 5, or 10 dram, UNC, each piece \$2

Bank notes (1993-4)

65. 10, 25, or 50 dram, UNC each banknote \$2

66. 100 dram, Ser. ԴԱ, or ԴԲ, UNC \$3

67. 200 dram, Ser. ԵԱ, UNC \$5

68. 500 dram, Ser. ԶԱ, or ԶԲ, UNC \$15

69. 1000 dram, Ser. ԹԱ, UNC \$20

70. 5000 dram, Ser. ԺԱ, UNC \$40

Bonds (1993)

71. 500 r., obligation bonds (1993) UNC \$25

72. 1000 r., obligation bonds (1993) UNC \$25

Medal (951-1003) anniver. commemoration

73. Grigor Narekatsi medal, AR proof 5 oz. \$200

74. Armenian ornamental brass work, door knob. 38x42 mm, spiral broken, nice patina \$100

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XN1. Komitas medal, reverse 3 cranes [1966] \$50

XN2. 75th anniversary of Armenian Church in USA, AE \$50

XN3. Armenia-Los Angeles, Garmı AE \$10

XN4. Armenia-Los Angeles, Etchmiadzin AE \$10

XN5. Armenia-Los Angeles, Zvartnots AE \$10

XN6. Armenia-LA, Yerevan's Arm. Mem. Mon. AE \$10

XN7. Armenia-Los Angeles David of Sassoun AE \$10

XN8. Armenia-Los Angeles Government House \$10

XN9. Set of 6 Armenia-Los Angeles medals AE \$50

XN10. Fresno Numism. Society/David of Sassoun AE \$10

XN11. Levon V of Cilician Armenia AE \$50

XN12. Key chain, Tigranes II coin replica \$6

Numismatic Books

N1. BEDOUKIAN, Paul Z., *Coinage of Cilician Armenia*.

New York: American Numismatic Society, NNM 147,

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Plate I



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44



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Obv.



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ՀԱՅ ԴՐԱՄԱԳԻՏԱԿԱՆ ՀԱՆԴԻՏ ARMENIAN NUMISMATIC JOURNAL

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June 2007

EXCERPTS FROM THE LETTERS RECEIVED ON PUBLICATION OF THE *Silver Coinage of the Artaxiad Dynasty of Armenia* (2006)

Thank you very much for sending your publication, *Silver coinage of the Artaxiad dynasty of Armenia*. It is good to have this out and available, and I am sure it will be of great use to scholars and others who follow ancient Armenian numismatics. ...

Arthur Houghton

... I received your fantastic *Silver coinage of the Artaxiad dynasty of Armenia*, full with facts, arguments, and photographs. ... I say you my best thanks and congratulations for this historical opus, this classical book! ...

Wolfgang Etterich

ERRATA noticed in *Silver Coinage of the Artaxiad Dynasty of Armenia*

A1-P24 should be	A4-P24	A1-P32 should be	A4-P32	A1-P37 should be	A4-P37
A1-P31	A4-P31	A1-P33	A4-P33	A56-P37	A55-P37

Personal Observations

Gökylıdırım's article (see abstract of No. XX, on page XX) describes a hoard of Artaxiad coins, intercepted by Turkish custom's agents in 1991. The hoard entirely is ascribed to Tigranes II and Artavasdes II and consists of 387 copper pieces: 11 uncertain, 5 given to Artavasdes II, and the rest 371 pieces to Tigranes II. It is very interesting to note that the hoard contains one copper coin with jugate heads/double peak mountain range design. This type of coin has been a controversial subject. We would like to highlight the fact that this parcel of coin hoard (?) contains coins mostly assigned to Tigranes II and a few pieces to Artavasdes II, does not include any copper coin attributed to Tigranes III, IV, and V. Even if we assume that it is not a hoard but an accumulation of coins, why only the present composition of coins and no others!

YN

LETTERS AND E-MAILS TO THE EDITOR

The Milwaukee Numismatic Society has awarded me the Del Bertschy Best-in-Show Award for my display "Selected Armenian Mekhitarist Medals" exhibited at the October 2006 MNS coin show. The display was limited to rare commemorative medals issued by the Mekhitarist congregations of Vienna and Venice.

Levon A. Saryan

Looking back on my article "A Small Hoard of Mamluk and Armenian Coins Found in Pakistan," I noticed two small errors I would like to correct. One, I said:

"The payment of tribute, which spanned over a period of over 40 years, covers host coins of five Armenian kings, and overstrikes in names of three Egyptian sultans."

Actually it was six Armenian kings: Levon III, Oshin, Levon IV, Guy Lusignan, Gosdantin III, and Levon the Usurper. Second, I cited the possible contents of the Broach hoard as:

(cont on next page)

3 takvorins of Levon IV.

2 takvorins of Gosdantin III.

→

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LETTERS AND E-MAILS TO THE EDITOR (cont.)

4 takvorins listed similar to the Levon IV takvorins (These were listed separately).

8 takvorins bearing Arabic surcharge in the name of Nasir Al-din Muhammad.

On a closer look one should not some serious errors in Codringtons descriptions and translation. On a closer examination of a drawing of no. 26 it becomes clear it is a takvorin of Levon the Usurper. Further, while it is certain that one of the takvorins on the plate (no.27) described with the name Gosdantin indeed belongs to GIII, we are uncertain the other takvorins with the name Gosdantin belongs to the same king since the image is not there. Therefore, I am forced to slightly revise the contents:

1 Takvorin of Levon the Usurper

2 Takvorins bearing the name Levon

1 Takvorin of Gosdantin III

1 Takvorin bearing the name Gosdantin(III?)

4 takvorins listed similar to the Levon IV takvorins (These were listed separately).

8 takvorins bearing Arabic surcharge in the name of Nasir Al-din Muhammad.

The only wish is that Codrington drew all the coins in this hoard to give us a better picture. Otherwise, we can make only this limited guess.

Levon Vrtanesyan

Editor's Note: Cilician Armenian Coins Overstruck in Arabic

Mr. Vrtanesyan made a bold statement that six Armenian kings (Levon III, Oshin, Levon IV, Guy Lusignan, Gosdantin III, and Levon the Usurper) made tribute payment to the sultans of Egypt.

If Mr. Vrtanesyan has documents to corroborate this statement we would like to see this and describe them in our *Journal*.

According to the research conducted by Dr. Paul Z. Bedoukian and the undersigned, definitely kings Levon III, Oshin, and Guy never paid tribute to the Mamluks. Historical sources make no reference that Levon III, Oshin, and Guy paid tribute to the Mamluks. Guy refused to pay tribute to the Mamluks. A few overstruck coins don't change history. I wish Mr. Vrtanesyan had made more research before he reached this erroneous conclusion on Cilician Armenian coins Overstruck in Arabic.

When Levon IV paid tribute to the Mamluks, no doubt there were some Levon III and definitely Oshin takvorins in circulation. They probably handed over to the Mamluks whatever was in the treasury, Levon IV takvorins, Oshin takvorins as well as Levon III takvorins left behind.

Y. T. Nercessian

Vrtanesyan's response

Thank you for bringing this up, as some other readers may have been confused as to my seemingly poor wording. For one, the 40 period I referred to was (roughly) 1320-1365 of overstriking. 45 years to be exact (intermittently). I referred to the takvorins from Levon IV to Levon the Usurper that were overstruck in this period. Guy as far as we know did not pay tribute, corroborated by the works of Bedoukian and yourself. And on a different note, the payment of tribute was agreed upon as early as 1279 as discussed by Bedoukian, and continued until the end of the kingdom in 1375, nearly 100 years later. However, I was referring to the roughly 40(45) year period of takvorins being overstruck by Mamluks in the context of my paper.

Levon Vrtanesyan

Editor's Note: Tribute payment

Levon II signed a treaty for "ten years, ten months, ten days and ten hours." The Armenians did not make tribute payment for 100 years. Hetoum II made an alliance with Mongols against the Mamluks. When the Mongols became Muslims, and after the assassination of Levon III, for practical purposes Armeno-Mongol alliance was useless. King Oshin defeated the Mamluks. There was no more tribute payment until Levon IV ascended the throne of Cilician Armenia. The tribute payment under Levon IV started in 1323. Again, if there is an historical document known to Mr. Vrtanesyan, on tribute payments, signed during the regnal periods of any king other than Levon II and Levon IV, we would like to know about it. To the best of our knowledge, there is no such thing. It is assumed that the tribute payment continued under some kings. Could they? The main source of income of Cilician Armenia came from the port of Ayas. During the reign of Gosdantin III the port of Ayas was lost to the Mamluks. Then on, even if the Armenians wanted to pay tribute, economically they could not be in a position to pay the tribute that Levon IV agreed.

YTN

Ե. Թ. Ներսէսեան, *Լճաւաշէնէան Հարստութեան Դրամահատութիւնը • Լճաւաշէն, Դրամաներ, Հայ Դրամագիտական Ընկերակցութիւն, Յատուկ Հրատարակութիւն, թիւ 11, Լոս Անճելըս, 2006.*

Արտաշէսեան դրամների ուսումնասիրութիւնն ունի աւելի քան երեքհարիւրամեայ պատմութիւն: Երկար ժամանակ դրամագէտները ստիպուած էին բաւարարուել եւրոպական մի քանի թանգարաններում պահուող սակաւաթիւ նմուշներով: Անցած դարում, յատկապէս նրա երկրորդ կէսից սկսած, արտաշէսեան դրամագիտութիւնը զգալի առաջընթաց ապրեց, որին նպաստեցին դրամների նոր յայտնաբերումները: Աւելի առատ ու բազմազան նիւթը տուեց հետազօտման նոր եղանակների կիրառման հնարաւորութիւն: Այս ճանապարհին Զ. Պտուկեանի արտաշէսեան դրամների դասակարգմանը նուիրուած հիմնարար աշխատութիւնը, մի կողմից, ամփոփեց այս բնագաւառում օտարազգի և հայ դրամագէտների ձեռքբերումները և, միւս կողմից, ճանապարհ հարթեց հետագայ աւելի խոր ու բազմակողմանի հետազօտութիւնների համար: Արտաշէսեանների արծաթէ ու պղնձէ դրամական վանգուածում Տիգրան Բ-ի դրամները, հասկանալի պատճառներով, կազմում են բացարձակ մեծամասնութիւն և յայտնի են հարիւրաւոր օրինակներով: Նրա արծաթէ դրամները, որոնք բարձրակարգ են իրենց գեղարուեստական ու տեխնիկական կատարումով, մեծամասամբ, ի տարբերութիւն պղնձէ դրամների, լաւ պահպանուածութիւնն ունեն և թոյլ են տալիս դրանք ուսումնասիրել այնպիսի մեթոդներով, ինչպիսիք են դրամահատման կնիքների համեմատական վերլուծութիւնը և դրամների չափագիտական վիճակագրութիւնը:

Արտաշէսեան դրամների մասին բազմաթիւ հրապարակումների ու յօդուածների հեղինակ, անուանի դրամագէտ Ե. Ներսէսեանի 2006 թ. լոյս տեսած այս աշխատութիւնը կարելի է համարել շատ սպասուած մի իրադարձութիւն: Գիրքը 2000 թուականին ՀԴՀ-ում հեղինակի հրատարակած «Տիգրան Բ-ի արծաթէ դրամները» ընդարձակ յօդուածի նորացուած և մասամբ վերամշակուած տարբերակն է, որը համալրուել է նաև մյուս Արտաշէսեանների արծաթէ դրամներով:

Գիրքի հիմնական մասն, իհարկէ, վերաբերում է Տիգրան Բ-ի դրամներին և արծեքաւոր է շնորհիւ մի շարք նորութիւնների: Դրամները խմբաւորելով ըստ դար-ձերեսի տիպաբանական յատկանիշների՝ հիմք ունենալով մենագրերը և թողարկման տարեթուերը, հեղինակն այնուհետև իրագործել է դրամներն ըստ դիմերեսի կնիքների դասակարգելու և իւրաքանչիւր դիմերեսի կնիքի հետ օգտագործուած դարձերեսի կնիքները տարբերակելու աշխատատար ուսումնասիրութիւնը: Այս մեթոդը Տիգրանի արծաթէ դրամների համար առաջին անգամ կիրառեց Ֆ. ըր Կալատայը 1997 թ.՝ օգտագործելով իրեն յայտնի շուրջ 240 դրամների տուեալները: 2000 թ. նոյնպիսի ուսումնասիրութիւն կատարելիս Ե. Ներսէսեանը հիմնուում էր արդէն 790, իսկ 2006 թ.՝ շուրջ 980 դրամների տուեալների վրայ:

Գիրքում դրամները ներկայացուած են ըստ դրամահատարանների: Մօտ 800 տետրադրախմաներ վերագրուած են Անտիոք բաղաքին, որոնք, նշում է հեղինակը, կազմում են այսօր մեկ յայտնի Տիգրանեան բոլոր տետրադրախմաների 97 տոկոսը

(էջ 164): Հիմք ընդունելով դարձերեսի մենագրերը, դրամները բաժանում են 11 խմբերի, որոնցից երկուսը (խումբ 5 և 9) ներկայացնում են մէկական օրինակով: Սրանցում կարելի է նկատել ավելի խոշոր խմբերի գոյությունը. 1 և 2 խմբերի համար ընդհանուր է նույն մենագիրը, 3 և 4-ը կապում են ոչ միայն ընդհանուր մենագրով, այլև A41 դիմերեսի կնիքով, 7 և 8-ը առնչում են հիմնականում ընդհանուր մենագրով և կապում են A58 դիմերեսի կնիքով: Դիմերեսի և դարձերեսի կնիքների տարբերակումը, որը հեղինակը կատարել է մեծ ճշտությամբ,¹ թույլ է տուել պարզել, կիրառելով դրամաթողարկման համար օգտագործուած կնիքների հաշուարկման Քարտերի մեթոդը, որ գրքում ցուցակագրուած Տիգրանի անտիոքյան տետրադրախմաները ներկայացնում են դիմերեսի թողարկման համար գործածուած կնիքների 97 տոկոսը, մինչդեռ դրամների նույն այդ քանակը առայժմ տալիս է միայն դարձերեսի կնիքների 50 տոկոսից քիչ ավելին (էջ 141-145): Սա նշանակում է, որ դիմերեսի տիպերն այժմ գրեթէ ամբողջովին յայտնի են, մինչդեռ դրամների նոր յայտնագործումները դեռևս պետք է ներկայացնեն դարձերեսի կնիքների մեկ անյայտ տարբերակներ:

Ինչպէս վերը նշուեց, դրամները կատալոգացուած և քննարկուած են ըստ հատման վայրերի՝ Անտիոք, Դամասկոս, Դամասկոսի արբանյակ դրամահատարան և Արտաշատ: Անտիոքին վերագրված դրամների մեծ մասը, հավանաբար, վերաբերում է այդ քաղաքին, բայց որքանով է հիմնադրուած 6 և 11, թերևս նաև՝ 7, 8 և 10 խմբերը ընդգրկել Անտիոքի թողարկումների շարքում: Տիգրանի դրամահատարանների հարցը մինչև այժմ մնում է տարակարծությունների առարկայ, որի գլխաւոր պատճառներից է Տիգրանեան դրամագիտների վերաբերեալ ստույգ տեղեկությունների բացակայությունը: Սա, ընդհանրապէս, Արտաշէսեան դրամագիտութեան ցաւոտ կողմերից մէկն է: Դրամների չնչին մասն է յայտնաբերուած պեղումների ընթացքում: Գերակշռող մասի ծագումն անյայտ է, գանձերի յայտնաբերման տեղի ու հանգամանքների մասին տուեալները՝ աղոտ կամ կասկածելի: Գանձերը հետալօսողներին են հասնում գերապանցապէս աղճատուած ու մասնատուած վիճակում: Դրանում կարելի է համոզուել նաև գրախօսուող գրքում գանձերին նուիրուած բաժինն ընթերցելիս (էջ 18-23): Դրամագէտներին առայժմ մնում է սահմանափակուել դրամների պատկերագրական, ռճական, տեխնիկական յատկանիշների վերլուծութեամբ, որոնք, սակայն, յաճախ բաւարար չեն թողարկման տեղի խնդիրը լուծելու համար: Այդուհանդերձ, եթէ վերոյիշյալ խմբերը Անտիոքին վերագրելու համար գոյություն ունեն հիմնաւոր փաստարկներ, հարկ էր, որ դրանք ներկայացուէին ընթերցողին:

Արտաշատին վերագրուող տետրադրախմաների և դրախմաների թուագրման հարցում հեղինակը հաւատարիմ է մնում Է. Բաբելոնի կողմից արտայայտուած տեսակէտին՝ որպէս առաւել տրամաբանական (էջ 150), և անհաւանական է համարում, որ Լուկուլիոսից պարտուած և Պոմպէոսին իր հնազանդությունը յայտնած Տիգրանը կարող էր «արքայից արքա» տիտղոսով դրամներ թողարկել թագաւորման վերջին տարիներին (148): Այնուամենայնիւ, գրաւոր աղբիւրների և դրամագիտական տուեալների քննութիւնը Պարթևաստան-Հայաստան և ալպա՝ Պարթևաստան-Հայաստան-Հռոմ

¹ Փորրիկ վրիպումները (ինչպէս A1 դիմերեսի կնիքին վերագրուած A1-P24a, A1-P31a, A1-P33a, A1-P37b դրամները՝ թողարկուած A4 դիմերեսի կնիքով) միշտ հնարաւոր են նման աշխատանքում, ստաւել ու՜ եթէ կատարուած են յաճախ ոչ այնքան յստակ լուսանկարների միջոցով, և էական նշանակութիւն ունենալ չեն կարող:

քաղաքական յարաբերությունների ենթատեքստում միանգամայն բացատրելի է դարձնում կայսերական տիտղոսով դրամները Տիգրան Բ-ի թագաւորութեան վերջին տարիներին ի յայտ գալու հանգամանքը:²

Գրքում վետեղում են վերջին տարիներս յայտնուած և հեղինակի կողմից Արտաշէս Բ-ին վերագրուած արծաթէ դրամները: Դրանցից առաջինի մասին (a1-p1a) տարիներ առաջ փորձել են հիմնաւորել կարծիքս, որ այն մեր ժամանակներում արուած կեղծիք է:³ Նոր օրինակներն ամրապնդեցին համոզմունքս, որ դրանք իսկական դրամներ լինել չեն կարող: Ի յաւելումն նախկինում արուած դիտարկումների, աւելացնեմ միայն, որ Յաղթանակի դիցուհու այդպիսի վզաչական՝ աւելի շուտ սիրոյ աստուածուհու տեսքով, կիսամերկ (առանց *խիտոնի*, միայն *պեպլոսով*) պատկերումը, ինչպիսին տեսնում ենք a2-p4a դրամի դարձերեսին, պարզապէս բացառում է այդ ժամանակաշրջանի համար:⁴ Բացի այդ, մենք արդէն ունենք Արտաշէս Բ-ի իսկական պղնձէ դրամները, որոնցից երկուսը յայտնաբերուել են Արտաշատի հնագիտական պեղումներից:⁵ Արքայի դիմապատկերն այդ դրամների վրայ ո՛չ պարզապէս գրութեամբ, ո՛չ էլ ռժով չունի ընդհանուր եկրեր վերոյիշեալ արծաթէ դրամների դիմապատկերի հետ:

Նշուած դիտարկումները բոլորովին չեն նսեմացնում գրքի անկասկած մեծ արժէքն ու կարևորութիւնը: Աշխատութիւնում տեղ գտած առատ, բարեխղճօրէն մշակուած ու յստակ մատուցուած նիւթն այսուհետև կը դառնայ Արտաշէսեանների դրամագիտութեամբ վբադուողների և հետաքրքրուողների համար անվիոխարինելի աղբիւր: Այս գրքի տասնեակ օրինակներ, ինչպէս հեղինակի աւանդական սիրալիկ նվիրատութեան շնորհիւ նախկինում հայրենիք ուղարկուած Հայ Դրամագիտական Ընկերակցութեան միւս հրատարակութիւնները, տեղ կը գտնեն նաև Հայաստանի ու Արցախի գրադարաններում՝ ընթերցող լայն հասարակայնութեանը հնարաւորութիւն տալով ծանօթանալու իր հարուստ դրամագիտական անցեալին:

ՌՈՒԲԷՆ ՎԱՐԴԱՆԵԱՆ

² Վերջին տարիներին հրատարակուած աշխատութիւններում գերիշխում է Տիգրանի դրամների այդ խմբի ուշ թուագրման տեսակէտը՝ թէև առանց հանգամանակի վերլուծութեան. C. Foss, "The Coinage of Tigranes the Great: Problems, Suggestions and a New Find," *Numismatic Chronicle* 146 (1986), p. 34; Ռ. Վարդանեան, «Դիտողություններ Տիգրան Մեծի բրոնզե թողարկումների չափագիտության եւ ժամանակագրության վերաբերյալ», *Հայոց պատմության եւ մշակույթի հարցեր*, ՀԳՊԺ գիտական նստաշրջան նվիրված Ա. Մանուկյանի հիշատակին», *Ջեկուցումների հիմնադրություններ*, Երեւան 1997, էջ 8-10; F. de Callatay, *L'histoire des guerres mithridatiques vue par les monnaies*, Louvain-la-Neuve, 1997, p. 228; A. Mousheghian, G. Depeyrot, *Hellenistic and Roman Armenian Coinage (1st c. BC-1st c. AD)*, Wetteren, 1999, p. 41. «Արքայից արքայ» տիտղոսի և այդ տիտղոսով դրամների վերաբերեալ աւելի անդամաւորման տեսւ Ա. Վարդանեան, "Le titre de «roi des rois» dans les relations entre les Parthes, l'Arménie et Rome," in: *Roma-Armenia (Grande Salle Sixtine, Bibliothèque Apostolique du Vatican, 25 mars-16 juillet 1999)*, pp. 43-47.

³ Ռ. Վարդանեան, «Հորինված արծաթէ դրամ "աստվածային Արտաքսերքեսի" անվամբ», *Պատմա-բանասիրական հանդես* I (1999), էջ 321-326:

⁴ Աւելորդ է ասել, որ Արտաշէս II-ը չէր կարող ընդօրինակել շրջանաձև գրութեան ձևը, որն առաջին անգամ այս տարածաշրջանում ի յայտ եկաւ Կլեոպատրայի և Անտոնինոսի դրամների վրայ, քանի որ մեզ լաւ յայտնի է Արտաշատի II-ի որդու վերաբերմունքը հռոմէացիների ու, մասնաւորապէս, այդ երկու տիրակալների հանդէպ:

⁵ Ռ. Վարդանեան, «Արտաշէս II-ի տարեթուակիր պղնձէ դրամը՝ Արտաշատում պոմպեյսեան տոմարի կիրառման եւս մի վկայութիւն», *Հանդէս Ամսօրեայ* 1-12 (2000), էջ 119-134; Մ. Զարգարեան, «Արտաշէս Բ-ի անդրանիկ դրամները եւ պատմա-դրամագիտական դրվագներ վերջին Արտաշէսյանների ժամանակաշրջանից», *Դրամագիտական հետազոտություններ*, Երեւան, 2000, էջ 4-25:

DONABEDAN, ASBED H. M. *Pages from the History of Armenian Numismatics* — էջեր հայ դրամագիտութեան պատմութենէն, Գրեյ՝ Ասպէս Յ. Մ. Տօնապահեան. Beirut: Armenian Evangelical College, 2006, 116 pp, card cover, illus. In Armenian.

Asbed Donabedian (1923-1993) was a well-liked professor at the Armenian Evangelical College, Beirut. A group of his students decided to combine in their financial contribution and have Donabedian's collective volume published posthumously.

The book is edited by Dr. Yervant Kassouny. In addition to all of his numismatic articles published in various Lebanese Armenian periodicals, the volume presented includes Donabedian's portrait, biography, and an article on ancient rugs. It is a clean and pleasant looking publication. Unfortunately, the illustrations were printed on ordinary paper as they were done when the original essays were published some decades earlier.

Because of the civil war in Lebanon, Donabedian retired and migrated to Los Angeles. His collection followed him and traveled as far as London. Around this time, Donabedian had a heart attack and passed away in Los Angeles, on January 23, 1993.¹

On March 2, 1994, Spink auctioned the largest private Armenian coin collection in London.² This 4552 coin collection was assembled by Asbed Donabedian over a period of several decades in Beirut, close to the source of discovery of ancient and medieval Armenian coins. Donabedian studied his coins and wrote essays on coins struck by the kings of the Artaxiad dynasty of Armenia. His specialty was the ancient coins.

Donabedian was never married and had no children. He allocated all of his spare time to studying Armenian coins and writing about them. He was very meticulous; he would edit and correct them over and over, until they were perfect or satisfactory to him. He was an authority on the study of Artaxiad coins. His first essay was published in *Shirak* monthly, the last and most of them, in *Haigazian Armenological Review*.

The titles of his articles are, "Money and Numismatics," "Artaxiad Dynasty (189- B.C.- A.D. 6)," "A Glance at the Unpublished Coins of Tigranes III," "The Coins of the Last Rulers of the Artaxiad Dynasty of Armenia," "A Copper Coin of Artaxias I: The Founder of the Artaxiad Dynasty," "Unique and Unpublished Coins of Tigranes II and Tigranes III," "Unique and Unpublished Coins of Tigranes II and Tigranes IV," "The Coins of Artavasdes III of Artaxiad Dynasty," a book review on "Paul Z. Bedoukian: Coinage of the Artaxiads of Armenia," "The Influence of Urartuan Culture on the Most Ancient Rug in the World."

Pages from the History of Armenian Numismatics should be read by all those who have a serious interest in ancient Armenian numismatics and history. Any numismatist and collector should be proud to have such a book gracing the shelves of his numismatic library.

Y. T. NERCESSIAN

¹ For a Eulogy see A. Geonjian, "Prof. Asbed H. M. Donabedian: The Armenian Instructor," *Armenian Numismatic Journal*, Ser. I, Vol. XIX (1993), No. 3, pp. 60-61 (in Armenian).

² Spink & Son, Ltd., "Ancient and Medieval Coins from the Collection of Professor Asbed Donabedian (1923-1993)," *Coin Auction 102* (London, March 1994), pp. 12-32, 56-60, Nos. 120-478. Y. T. Nercessian, "The Armenian Coins Auction of Prof. Asbed Donabedian Collection," *Armenian Coin Auctions* (Los Angeles, 2006), pp. 34-47, reprinted from *Armenian Numismatic Journal*, Ser. I, Vol. XX (December 1994), No. 4, pp. 69-79.

ԳՐԱՆԾԱՌԱԹԻՒՆ

ARMENIAN COIN AUCTIONS – ՀԱՅԿԱԿԱՆ ԴՐԱՄՆԵՐՈՒՆ ԱՃՈՒԴԴՆԵՐԸ, զրեց՝ Ե. Թ. Ներսիսյան: Լոս Անճելըս. Հայ Դրամագիտական Ընկերակցութիւն, Յատուկ Հրատարակութիւն, Թիւ 12, 2006, թղթակազմ, vi + 118 էջ:

«Հայկական դրամներում անուղմները», վերջերս հրատարակուած աշխատութեան, հեղինակութեամբ բազմավաստակ դրամագէտ Եղիա Թորոսի Ներսիսյանի:

Գիրքը ստուարածաւալ է: Իր տեսակի մէջ եզակի և բացառիկ ուսումնասիրութիւն է, յատկապէս Հայ դրամագիտութեան առումով:

Այն խիստ օգտակար է, ոչ միայն դրամագէտներին և պատմաբաններին, այլ և անհատ դրամահաւաքներին համար:

Գրքի սկզբում, հեղինակի կողմից ներկայացուած են 1981–2002 թթ. տարբեր վայրերում կազմակերպուած 21 աճուրդների անուանացանկը, ժամանակ և կազմակերպման վայրը, որտեղ ներկայացուած են Հայկական 16 դրամախմբաւորումներով, Համառօտ նախարանից յետոյ¹ տալով աճուրդային կազմակերպութիւնների անուանումները, ժամանակաշրջանը և իւրաքանչիւրում տեղ զտած հայկական դրամների ընդհանուր քանակը և պատկանելիութիւնն առանձին խմբերի:

Ապա տրուած են նրանց, յատկանշական ցուցակները (կատարողները): Գրքի աւարտին, վերջին վեց էջերի վրայ, տրուած է աշխատութեան մէջ օգտագործուած անունների ցանկը այբբենական կարգով:

Կատալոգում նախ կազմուած է ուսումնասիրութեան համար խիստ անհրաժեշտ հարցերին տրուելիք բաժինները հետեւեալ հերթականութեամբ:

Ա. Աճուրդային ցուցակում տեղ զտած դրամների հերթական համարները:

Բ. Տիրակալի անունը ըստ դահակալութեան տարեթուերի:

Գ. Դրամների արժէքային միաւորների անունները և նրանց մետաղները:

Դ. Վկայակոչումներ – տարեթուերով:

Ե. Դրամի վիճակը – պահպանուածութեան աստիճանը:

Զ. Վաճառքի ներկայացուած դրամի աճուրդային յանձնաժողովի կողմից նախատեսուած գինը:

Է. Դրամների իրացման – գնման արժէքը:

¹ Նախարանը և տեքստերը գրուած են անգլերէնով, ամփոփումները՝ հայերէնով:

Ուսումնասիրությունն սկսում է—

“Auktion” No. 12-ի (Մունչեն ունդ մեդալլեն) աճուրդով, կայացած 1981 թ. զուլիցարական ընկերություն կողմից, ուր վաճառքի կատարվում ենթակայացուած էր 135 հայկական դրամներ: Որոշք քանակային առումով ամենաշատն էր իր նախորդների համեմատ²:

Կատարվում տեղ գտած 14 դրամներ պատկանելիս են եղել Արտաշեսեան հարստության շրջանին³, Կիլիկիայի Ռուբենեան հայկական իշխանության շրջանից եղել է մէկ դրամ, իսկ թագաւորութեան տարիներին գահակալած 14 օծեալ թագաւորների, գրեթէ բոլորի կողմից թողարկուած դրամներ Որու երբեմն հազուադիւս օրինակներ: Ընդհանուր թուով 121 միաւոր: Հաւաքածոյում տեղ են գտել և արժէքաւոր դրամներ:

Ե. Թ. Ներսէսեանի կողմից մեծ պնահատանքի է արժանացել, յաջորդ 1985 թ. Դեկտեմբերի 3-ին Նիւ Եորքում կայացած, դրամների աճուրդային վաճառքը, որը կազմակերպուած էր Բրետիթ Սուլիսի կողմից:

Աճուրդի ընդհանուր ցուցակներում ներկայացուած 854 միաւորներից 195 դրամներ եղել են տարբեր ժամանակներին պատկանող, հայկական դրամներ⁴, որոնցից, դարձեալ քանակապէս մեծ է բովանդակութեամբ հարուստ 167 դրամ, Կիլիկիայի հայկական թագաւորութեան շրջանում թողարկուած, բացառիկ և խիստ հազուադիւս դրամների օրինակներ: Կատարվում մանրամասն ներկայացուած են խմբաւորումներն ըստ ժամանակագրութեան⁵:

Գնահատանքի է արժանի և այն վիստը, որ ժողովածոյին կից եղել են և համառօտ չափազրուած պատմական տեղեկութիւններ և կից լուսանկարներ⁶:

Հայ դրամահաւաք, դրամագէտները, գրքում ենթակայացուած են համաձայն աճուրդների կայացման ժամանակին:

Արժէքաւոր, խոշոր դրամամիւրերից առաջինը պատկանել է Փարիզաբնակ մեծ դրամահաւաք (Նադիրա) Նուարդ Գաբամաջեանին⁷, տեղեկացնում է նաև, որ դրամների և հնագիտական արժէք ենթակայացնող այլ նիւթերի, հաւաքչական գործով, ինչպէս և նրանց վաճառքով՝ Ն. Գափամաջեանը սկսել է զբաղւել 1935 թ.:

Ն. Գափամաջեանի մահից յետոյ, նրա դքսմները աճուրդային վաճառքը, տեղի է ունենում 1992 թ. Փարիզի Բուրժէ հնագիտական դրամների վաճառքի ընկերության կողմից:

Ն. Գափամաջեանի ունեցած հայկական դրամների հաւաքածոյում ամփոփուած, Արտաշեսեան հարստութեան և Կիլիկիայի հայկական թագաւորութեան դրամների հարուստ խմբերը, աճուրդում ենթակայացնելու համար անհրաժեշտ ցուցակագրումը և դասակարգումը, կատարում է Ս. Բուդինը, հիմնուելով մեծ դրամագէտ Դոկտ. Զարեհ Պտուկեանի «Արտաշէսեան հարստութեան

² Հեղինակը տեղեկացնում է, որ դեռևս 1879 թ. Բեռլինում (Գերմանիա) կայացած ամենախոշոր աճուրդներից մէկում, ենթակայացուած են եղել հայկական դրամների միայն 39 օրինակ:

³ Դրամները մեծամասնութիւնը պատկանել են Արտաշեսեաններից Տիգրան Մեծին (Բ):

⁴ Դրամներն աճուրդի են ենթակայացնել հոլանդահայ դրամահաւաքի կողմից (անունը յայտնի չէ):

⁵ Հարկ է նշել, որ գրքում դրամագէտ Ե. Թ. Ներսէսեանն այսպիսի ուղեցոյցով ենթակայացրել է աճուրդներում տեղ գտած բոլոր մեծ ժողովածոները:

⁶ Այս ժողովածոյի աճուրդում ենթակայացուած դրամների ցուցակների կազմելուն մասնակցել է Պրն. Վիգնն Հաւասնեանը: Նիւթերի արժէքաւոր լինելու փաստը հաստատուում է և նրանով, որ նախապէս աճուրդային յանձնաժողովի կողմից պնահատուած հայկական դրամների բաժինը \$55,715 փոխարէն, դրամները վաճառուել են \$62,545:

⁷ Ն. Գափամաջեանը ծնուել է Կ. Պոլսում 1901 թ., հանգամանքների բերումով 1922 թ. տեղափոխուում է Փրանսիա և մշտական ընկուլթիւնն ապաստում Փարիզում:

Բեան դրամները» և «Կիլիկիան Հայաստանի դամները» դասական աշխատությունների հիման վրա⁸։

Անհրաժեշտ ենք համարում յատկապես ներկայացնելու, գրքում յիշատակուած և աճուրդուած ներկայացուած, հայկական դրամների, կարելի է ասել, ամենայն արժեքաւոր և խոշոր, բովանդակութեամբ հարուստ ևս մէկ ժողովածու, որը պատկանում էր դրամահաւաք և դրամագէտ Պրոֆ. Ապետ Տօնապետեանին։ Այն իրենից ներկայացնում էր, ոչ միայն հազուադէպ դրամների առանձին օրինակներին մի խումբ, այլ և հարուստ էր դրամախմբերով և դասաւորուած, ուսումնասիրութեան համար անհրաժեշտ տուեալներով։ Ինչպէս նաև նշենք, որ Պրոֆ. Ա. Տօնապետեանը ոչ միայն պարզ դրամահաւաք էր այլ և դրամագէտ—ուսումնասիրող։ Նա մի շարք յօդուածների հեղինակ էր⁹, միաժամանակ ամենայն սիրով մասնակցում էր Հայ Դրամաւորտական Ընկերակցութեան կողմից կազմակերպուած բոլոր միջոցառումներին։

Պրոֆ. Ա. Տօնապետեանի նախասիրութիւնները հիմնականում, Արտաշեսեան հարստութեան, մասնաւորապէս Տիգրան Մեծի (Բ) դրամներն էին։

Պրոֆ. Ա. Տօնապետեանի հաւաքածոն աճուրդային վաճառքի հանուեց, իր մահից յետոյ 1994 թ. Լոնդոնում, դասական դրամներ վաճառող Սփինք հաստատութեան կողմից, 102-աճուրդում, «Արմենիա» մակդիր կատարողով դասաւորուած։ Աճուրդային մասնագիտական յանձնաժողովի կողմից նախատեսուած 50,000–65,000 փաունդի դիմաց այն վաճառուեց 86,000-ով¹⁰։

Պրոֆ. Ա. Տօնապետեանն, իր հաւաքածոյում եղած դրամներն, սիրով տրամադրում էր հայ դրամագիտութեամբ զբաղուող իւրաքանչիւր մասնագէտին։

Դրամագէտ Դոկտ. Զ. Պտուկեանն իր «Կիլիկիան Հայաստանի դամները» մեծարժեք աշխատութեան կորպուսը կազմելիս, մեծ չափով օգտագործել է Պրոֆ. Ա. Տօնապետեանի հաւաքածոն։

Գրքում հայ դրամահաւաք—դրամագէտներին ժամանակագրական յաջորդականութեամբ ներկայացուած է Նիքելըս Վ. Ժամկոչեանը։ Նրա ընտանիքը դեռևս 1912 թ. Անգլիայից դադրում է Կալիֆորնիա և ընակութիւն է հաստատում Գլենդէյլ քաղաքում¹¹։

Ն. Վ. Ժամկոչեանը մեծ դրամահաւաք էր և դրամագէտ։ Նա անդամակցել է և թղթակցել է Լոնդոնի, Նիւ Եորքի, և Լոս Անձելըսի հայ դրամագիտական ընկարակցութիւններին։

Հաւաքելով, խմբաւորելով և ուսումնասիրելով, ինչպէս հայկական դասական և միջնադարեան, այնպէս էլ յունական, հռոմէական և բիւզանդական դրամները։ Տարբեր թեմաների շուրջ հանդէս էր դալիս դասախօսութիւններով¹²։

Յաջորդը գրքում ներկայացուած է հայ մեծ դրամահաւաքը և դրամագէտը Մեսրոպը Արզարեանցն է¹³։

1975 թ. Մ. Արզարեանցն Իրանից գաղթում է Կալիֆորնիա, Թոուկանը զուգադիպում է Լոս անձելըսում Հայ Դրամագիտական Ընկերակցութեան Համընթիսի, ինչպէս և Լոս անձելըսում հնագիտական դրամներ վաճառող աճուրդային ընկերութեան հիմնադրմանը¹⁴։

⁸ Որով բարձրանում է Նիւթելի աճուրդային արժեքը։

⁹ Պրոֆ. Ա. Տօնապետեանը թղթակցել է՝ «Շիրակ», «Ջահակի», և յատկապէս «Հայկազեան Հայագիտական Հանդէս» պարբերականներին։

¹⁰ Աճուրդում ներկայացուած հաւաքածոյի մի մասը չվաճառուեց։

¹¹ Ն. Վ. Ժամկոչեանը կրթութիւնը ստանում է այստեղ (ԱՄՆ-ում), աւարտելով Կալիֆորնիայի (USC) համալսարանը, ստանալով քիմիական գիտութիւնների Մագիստրոսի աստիճան։

¹² Ն. Վ. Ժամկոչեանը դրամների հարուստ հաւաքածոն աճուրդի է ներկայացուած նրա մահից յետոյ 1994 թ. Ֆրանկֆորտում (Գերմանիա)։

¹³ Դոկտ. Մ. Արզարեանցը ծնուել Ն. Զուլալում, իսկ կրթութիւնը ստացել է Փարիզում։

Դրամագիրտութեան վերաբերեալ Դոկտ. Մ. Արզարեանցի բոլոր ուսումնասիրութիւնները, հրատարակուած են Հայ Դրամագիրտական Հանդէսում:

Աճուրդային վաճառքում ներկայցնելու համար Մ. Արզարեանցի դրամների հարուստ հաւաքածոն (800 կտոր դրամ) յանձնուած է Հանդէսի գլխաւոր խմբագիր դրամագէտ Ե. Թ. Ներսէսեանին: Դրամագէտը դրամները զստակարգում է 272 խմբերի, որոնցում եղել են Արտաշէսեան հարստութեան դրամների բացառիկ օրինակներ¹⁵, Հայաստանին առնչուող հռոմէական, եղեւթիայի պղնձեայ հազուագիւտ և ի հարկէ մեծ մասամբ Կիլիկիայի թագաւորութեան դրամներ, որոնցում կային խիստ հազուագիւտ օրինակներ: Մ. Արզարեանցի հաւաքածոյի աճուրդային վաճառքը տեղի է ունենում 1998 թ. փետ. 11-ի/վերայի մէջ (Կալիֆորնիա):

«Հայկական դրամներում աճուրդները» գիրքն աւարտում է հայ դրամահաւաք Մանուէլ Փանոսեանի, հայկական դրամների աճուրդով: Աճուրդային վաճառքի ցուցակներում ներկայացուած էին 111 դրամախմբեր, տարբեր ժամանակներին:

Ծովքի, Արտաշէսեան հարստութեան, Լուիի Կիւրիկեան թագաւորութեան, դարձեալ համեմատաբար մեծ թիւ կազմող Կիլիկիայի Ռուբենեան թագաւորութեան դրամներն և այլ դրամներ, ինչպէս և պատմական արժէք ներկայացնող հայկական 2 ոսկէ մեդալներ, մէկ արճիճէ հայկական կնիք, արծաթեայ խաչ և ապարանջան: Ընդհանուր քանակով ներկայացուած էին 300 միաւոր: Նիւթերն աճուրդային վաճառքի էին ներկայացուել Կլասիկալ Նումիսմատիկ Գրուպ հնագիտական դրամներ վաճառող ընկերութեան կողմից 2002 թ. փետի/վանիայի Լանքըսթը քաղաքում¹⁶:

Դրամագէտ Ե. Թ. Ներսէսեանն առանձնակի հոգատարութեամբ, սրտացաւութեամբ և ափսոսանքով է խօսում խոշոր հայ դրամահաւաքների և մասամբ, դրամներ ուսումնասիրող, մասնագէտների ժողովածոների ներկայացմանն, աճուրդային վաճառքներում: Նիւթեր, որոնք կարող էին իւրաքանչիւր մշակութային կենտրոնի, յատկապէս թանգարանների գարդը կազմել և անսպառ աղբիւր լինել, ուսումնասիրողներին համար ներկայացնելով որպէս համամարդկային արժէքներ, Նա գտնում է սակայն, որ դրամների տարածուելով աշխարհով մէկ, երբեմն կորցնում են իրենց արժանի տեղը:

Մեծ են դրքի արժանիքները: Աւելորդ ենք համարում մեր կողմից ներկայացնել բոլոր դրամներին առնչուող մանրամասնութիւնները, քանի որ, դրամագէտ Ե. Թ. Ներսէսեանի կողմից գրքում, այն ներկայացուած է մեծ խնամքով և պատասխանատուութեամբ:

Հայկական դրամների նկատմամբ վերջին տարիներին շատ է մեծացել հետաքրքրութիւնը, ինչպէս և պահանջարկը: Որը հաստատուած էն աճուրդային յանձնաժողովի կողմից գնահատուած դրամների հաւաքածոները, որոնք վաճառուած են աւելի բարձր-երբեմն նոյն իսկ կրնակի արժէքներով:

ՄԱՐԳՈ-ԼԵՆԱ Ե. ԿԱՐԱՊԵՏԵԱՆ

Հայաստանի Պատմութեան Թանգարանի

Դրամագիրտութեան Բաժնի աւագ գիտական
աշխատակից (նախկինում)

¹⁴ Լոս Անձելըսում հնագիտական դրամների աճուրդային վաճառքի ընկերութիւնը (NFA) գոյատևում է մինչև 1993 թ.

¹⁵ Ինչպէս Տիգրան Մեծի «սուսպով» չորեքդրամը որ վաճառուել է \$5,390-ի:

¹⁶ Դանի որ, այդ կազմակերպութիւնն արժանացել էր հայ դրամահաւաքների վստահութեանը:

A RARE MEDAL OF THE YEREVAN COMPUTER INSTITUTE

Following World War II, Yerevan developed into one of the major scientific and intellectual centers of the USSR. The establishment of a research institute and associated manufacturing enterprises for computers and automated control systems was one of several projects that defined Armenia's modern scientific and technological base. The Yerevan Computer Research and Development Institute (Երևանի Մաթեմատիկական Մեքենաների Գիտա-Հետազոտական Ինստիտուտ, literally the Yerevan Scientific Research Institute of Mathematical Machines) was established in the Armenian capital in 1956 when computer science was in its infancy worldwide.¹

In 1976, a very interesting limited edition commemorative medal was issued to recognize the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the Institute. The medal has a design on one face only (uniface). Rather than employing a raised sculptural relief, as is typical, this large medal employs a design reminiscent of a printed circuit board. The technical description of the medal follows below:



Fig. 1. Yerevan Computer Institute Medal

OBVERSE: The center of the medal shows an eleven-story building with two four-story wings on each side, the headquarters of the Yerevan Computer Research and Development Institute, enclosed within an oak and laurel wreath. A legend near the edge in Armenian and Russian, enclosed within two circles, reads * ԵՐՄՄԳՀԻ * ЕРНИИММ * ЛЕТ XX СԱՌԻ. The legend gives the initials of the name of the Institute and mentions the 20th year in both languages. The edge of the medal is slightly raised, protecting the central legend and design, which are applied directly to the metal surface without relief. The design is fabricated using a highly reflective white metal on a black-colored background.

¹ The historical development of computer science in Armenia is described by Academician Fadei Sarkisian in a chapter on mathematical machines written for the multi-author volume *Kidoutiunuh Haianoum 50 Daroum*, pp. 399-408 (Yerevan, 1973, in Armenian). An article on the Yerevan Computer Research and Development Institute appears in *Armenian Soviet Encyclopedia*, Vol. 7, p. 140 (Yerevan, 1981, in Armenian). The Institute also maintains an informative internet website, www.ycrdi.am.

REVERSE: Blank polished metal, no design.

FABRIC: Circular disk of solid brass, 86.0 mm diameter, 4.75 mm thick at edge, 4.24 mm thick at center, 188.82 grams. According to the dealer in California from whom this medal was procured, it was issued in a limited edition of 100 examples.

The Yerevan Computer Research and Development Institute (YCRDI), now observing its 50th anniversary, was established in 1956 by Academician Sergei Mergelian, and is thus often referred to as the Mergelian Institute. It is situated on an attractively landscaped campus in the Arapkir district of Yerevan, near the Kievian Bridge. Besides its offices and R&D laboratories, the facility has a garden, a reflecting pond, and a kindergarten for children of the staff. A vacation center for employees is located in the resort city of Tzaghkadsor. In 1992, several departments of YCRDI were administratively organized into a separate institute, the Yerevan Automated Control Systems Scientific Research Institute (YACSI),² located on the same campus. At the time of the reorganization, the total workforce of the institute numbered about 3500 employees with another 3500 employed at associated manufacturing facilities.³

YCRDI was originally established to develop mainframe computer equipment. At its inception, emphasis was placed on the design of small and medium performance computers, and by the end of the 1960's special purpose computers and automated control systems were developed. Ancillary departments focused on electronics and construction, memory systems, computer-aided design, and software development. Alongside the research laboratories were pilot production plants where manufacturing issues could be worked out before mass production began.

The earliest products of YCRDI were the first generation "Arakadz" and "Yerevan" systems. Second-generation computers utilizing semiconductor amplifiers were initiated in 1959. In 1960's the first "Hrazdan" and "Nairi" computers were introduced. In rapid succession, special systems ("Marshrut-1") for accounting, and third generation integrated circuit machines "Nairi-3" and "Nairi-4" were developed. "Nairi-4," which was manufactured at the Electron Factory in Yerevan and in Kazan, Russia, was promoted at 19 foreign expositions, including the Soviet International Exhibition held in Los Angeles in 1977. My late father, Sarkis Saryan, gave me a couple of interesting brochures describing the technical specifications of the "Nairi-4" system, which he obtained while visiting this show.⁴

During the Soviet period YCRDI played a key role in the Soviet space effort. In this connection, extensive work was devoted to creation of the "BRS" system, which was successfully developed in record time in 1967-1968 to enable control of the flight to the moon.⁵ Reviewing its work and accomplishments during the Soviet period, it would be fair to state that the Mergelian Institute grew to become one of the leading centers of computer research, design, and manufacture in the entire USSR.

Like other scientific enterprises in Armenia, YCRDI lost ground in the early 1990s, as Armenia's economy came to a standstill in the wake of the earthquake, the Turkish blockade, and

² This Institute also maintains a separate website, www.yercsi.am, which may be consulted for more information.

³ Some of the principle leaders in Armenian computer research over the past five decades include Mergelian, Fadei Sarkisian (who later became president of the National Academy of Sciences), Arman Kuchukyan, and Gagik Hovhannissian. Space limitations prevent the mention of numerous other scientists whose work established the foundation of computer studies in Armenia.

⁴ "Problem Oriented Computer Nairi-4," (Moscow, 1977), a 4-page brochure in English, and a similar version in Armenian.

⁵ This achievement is discussed in a little more detail on the YCRDI website.

widespread factory shutdowns. The 1992 reorganization (after Armenia regained independence) led to the creation of a second institute which helped focus research attention on two main avenues of development, computers and automated control systems.

Current efforts of YCRDI are largely devoted to providing computer solutions to problems facing various government agencies of the Republic of Armenia. During recent years the institute has developed or is developing a number of very important systems, such as special purpose "Parek-VS" (1994-2000), Information-Analytic "INIA" (since 1997), and "Urartu" for control, verification, and calculation of electricity consumption.

The latest work of the Institute is compatible with modern advances in computing systems, including the rise of personal computers and the trend toward component miniaturization. With the assistance of USAID, World Bank, and other organizations, a number of information and control systems of great importance are being developed. These have a hierarchical structure (district-region-republic) and are based on off-the-shelf personal computers with application software developed by YCRDI specialists.

Among such systems are the "Araks" system for registration, assignment, and payment of pensions to retired persons, as well as accounting for employer contributions (1994-1999). "Paros," a system to assess household vulnerability and to distribute state poverty benefits was developed and implemented from 1994-2001. "Sevan," a system for registration of the unemployed, benefit payment, and placement, was put into place between 1997 and 2001. The "Midas" system for collecting and analyzing data from Armenia's medical institutions, completed in 2002, received a state prize.

Just in the past five years, a system for computerization of Civil Status Registration offices in Armenia ("Osiris") and another for personal pension insurance ("Parnas") were developed. The "Arev" system, an Armenian-language communication program for persons with impaired vision, was put into place in 2003-2005. In 2006, a Russian language version of the same software was introduced. A pilot version of e-government has also been recently developed.

One of the most encouraging recent projects undertaken by YCRDI is the development of very low cost computer training courses for the citizens of Armenia. The course, entitled "Computer Literacy for all," includes training in Windows 2000, Excel, MS Word, basic internet, and e-mail applications. The ultimate aim of this project is to bring computer literacy to the entire country within a few more years.

These advances make it clear that Armenia's computer sector has recovered from the privations of the early 1990's, and is established on a modern technological basis. The Institute is once again growing and serving the needs of the government of Armenia and clients in Russia and elsewhere.

A creative approach was employed to design and fabricate the 20th anniversary commemorative medal of the Yerevan Computer Research and Development Institute. It is with the same ingenuity and creativity that scientists and engineers have established the foundation of modern Armenia's technological progress in computing and automated control systems.

L. A. SARYAN, Ph.D.

FURTHER COMMENTS ON A NEWLY-REPORTED COUNTERFEIT TIGRANES TETRADRACHM

Mr. Nercessian recently reported and described a new counterfeit silver tetradrachm of Tigranes the Great of Armenia.¹ After careful examination, he correctly points out that this piece cannot be genuine. This coin, while attractive, is overweight (17.02 grams), has a very smooth edge, and a die axis that does not match the known silver coinage of this king.²

When this piece was initially offered for sale in March 2006, I noted several problems with the internet listing and discussed them with other specialists. Later, in an article prepared (without the benefit of first-hand examination) independently and published in *The Celator*, I provided additional important details about the provenance of this specimen, pointing out the hazards of purchasing expensive rare coins from internet sellers who do not have the requisite experience, qualifications, and skills to attribute coins correctly, weigh them accurately, and distinguish reliably between genuine and false pieces.³



Subsequently, with the kind cooperation of its owner, I was able to examine this piece carefully and add it to my rogues' gallery of Armenian counterfeits. It is struck and the toning is artificially applied. The edges of this piece have since been brushed and its weight is now 16.87 grams. Nevertheless, it remains nearly one full gram heavier than the accepted range for Antioch silver tetradrachms of Tigranes.⁴

More recently there have been new developments. At least one other example of the same counterfeit has surfaced, this time offered for sale and allegedly authenticated by highly regarded (non-Armenian) specialists in ancient numismatics. In early 2007, while scrutinizing internet sale offerings at www.vcoins.com, I noted that a well-known ancient coin dealer in northern California had a virtually identical (identical obverse and reverse dies) example on his website, listed for sale at \$3500! This piece weighs 16.98 grams, and was described as "Nercessian Group 6 (A56); CAA 33; AC 33. Struck on a full large flan. Well-centered. Choice Good VF and toned."

I contacted this dealer (with whom I was not previously acquainted) and inquired about the authenticity of the listed coin. He assured me that, beside himself, two other noted specialists from separate California firms had examined and confirmed the authenticity of the coin. This is evidence that even supposedly reputable dealers and so-called experts can be in error.

The discovery of a second example of this counterfeit is an indication that several more examples probably exist, and collectors should be on the lookout for them. The keys to the detection of these counterfeits are (1) detailed understanding of the characteristics of genuine coins and (2) clear photographs of the counterfeits.

L. A. SARYAN, Ph.D.

¹ Y.T. Nercessian, "Tigranes II Counterfeit Tetradrachm with Imperial Countenance Portrait," *Armenian Numismatic Journal*, Vol. 32 (2006), p. 72.

² See L. A. Saryan and M. Panossian, "A Drachm Forgery of Tigranes the Great," *Armenian Numismatic Journal*, Vol. 24 (1998), pp. 49-50, for another forgery that was detected by its incorrect die axis.

³ L. A. Saryan, "Counterfeit Ancient Armenian Coins in Internet Auctions," *The Celator*, Vol. 21, No. 1 (January 2007), pp. 24, 26.

⁴ According to data in Nercessian's *Silver Coinage of the Artaxiad Dynasty of Armenia* (Los Angeles, 2006), p. 135, the mean weight of 731 Antioch tetradrachms is 15.52 grams with almost all examples falling between 14.9 and 16.2 grams.

AUCTIONS OF TWO ARMENIAN GOLD COINS, OF IDENTICAL DIES, DISCOVERED IN A 1988 HOARD

In December 1988, Mr. Bernhard Schulte, Basel, Switzerland, purchased a hoard of 116 gold coins containing one Armenian gold piece. The seller informed him that there was a second piece of the same appearance and weight (ref. *Armenian Numismatic Journal*, 2004, pp. 91-98).

The second Armenian gold coin was auctioned first by Frank Sternberg (1a) on November 20-21, 1989 but it was not sold. Later in a private sale, it was purchased by Mr. J. Guevrekian and illustrated in *Armenian Coins and Their Values* (No. 255). It was auctioned by CNG (1b) on December 5-6, 1995. The first Armenian gold coin was auctioned by Künker (2a) on March 7-8, 2005, and for the second time (2b) by Numismatica Genevensis on December 11-12, 2006.

The information published in auction catalogues and prices realized are reprinted and offered to our readers as a useful guide to current prevailing prices and for posterity. YTN

(1a)

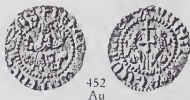
LEVON II
1270 - 1289

452 AV-Halb-Byzant. + LEVON ՄԻԱԿԱՎՈՐ ԿԱՅՈՒԹԻ Thronender König mit Kreuz und Lilie zwischen zwei Löwen, linker Fuss des Königs nach aussen. RV. + GAROGHJOJUT · PN ASDOUDZOU Zwei aufsteigende Löwen, dazwischen Patriarchenkreuz. 2,45 g. Unediert.

Schrift etwas gedrückt. F.d.c.

P.Z. Bedoukian, CCA p. 68-75, hat eine Liste der bekannten 16 Goldstücke der armenischen Könige zusammengestellt. Ein Stück von Levon II. ist bekannt – es ist aber beim Brand von Pera 1831 zerstört worden. Es scheint sich um ein Ganzstück vom Normaltyp Levons II. gehandelt zu haben. Wie es beim Silber zu den Festprägungen Teilstücke gibt, so wohl auch beim Gold. Unser Stück entspricht im Typ den Münzen Levons I., unterscheidet sich jedoch im Stil. Man vergleiche den Königskopf und das Gewand CCA Tf. 1,6 (= ANS Museum Notes X, 1962, Tf. XXV, 4). Das Stück soll übrigens zugleich mit arabischen Goldmünzen aus der 2. Hälfte des 13. Jh. gefunden worden sein. – Abbildung auf Farbtafel B.

(1a)



Estimated price 40,000 Swiss francs,
not sold during the auction,
Frank Sternberg, *Auction XX*,
November 20-21, 1989

(1b)

Price realized US\$22,000, plus 10% buyer's
fee, US\$24,200. Classical Numismatic
Group, *Auction 36*, December 5-6, 1995.

(1b)

One of the Classic Rarities of the Armenian Series



714. Levon II as King Levon I. 1198-1219. AV Half Tahekan (2.45 gm). "Levon king of the Armenians", Levon seated on lion throne, holding cross and lis / "By the will of God", patriarchal cross between rampant lions. AC 255 (this coin illustrated); Bedoukian 6 variety: EF. (\$25,000)

Bedoukian lists sixteen authenticated Armenian gold coins, several of which cannot be located at present. Nerosessian numbers 12 specimens known to him, including this unique half tahekan. The gold coins of Levon were most likely struck at the time of his coronation in 1198, when the Holy Roman emperor Henry VI and the Byzantine emperor Alexius III sent crowns symbolizing his elevation. However, even the blessings of two emperors could not negate the hostility of the Frankish nobles of the Crusading principalities, with whom Levon and succeeding kings found themselves embroiled in conflict over the status of neighboring territories.

ARMENIEN



1,5:1



2127 N



1,5:1

- 2127 Levon II. (I.), 1187-1199-1219. *AV*-Tram; 2,21 g. König thront v. v.//Patriarchenkreuz zwischen zwei Löwen. Bedoukian -. **Von großer Seltenheit. Vorzüglich** 5.000,-
Zur Zuweisung siehe Nercessian, Additional Evidence on the Authenticity of Cilician Armenian Gold Coins, in: Armenian Numismatic Journal 30 (2004), S. 95 f. (dies Exemplar erwähnt).

Price realized €8,250, plus 15% buyer's fee, €9487.5 (US\$7,447). Fritz Rudolph Künker, *Auction 97*, March 7-8, 2005.

(2b)

ARMENIE



- 341 Lévon I, 1199-1219. Tram en or. Le roi, tenant une fleur de lis de la main gauche et une croix de la main droite, assis de face sur un trône orné de deux lions / Longue croix flanquée de deux lions placés dos-à-dos. 2,21g. Fr. -; Bedoukian -; ANS Journal 30 (2004), S. 95 f.

D'une importance exceptionnelle pour l'histoire de l'Arménie.

Rarissime et Très bel exemplaire. 20'000.-

Lors des préparatifs de la troisième croisade, le pape Clément III demanda au prince arménien Lévon d'aider financièrement et militairement les croisés. Lévon envoya une escorte accueillir l'empereur Frédéric Barberousse qui approchait de la Cilicie. Celui-ci lui promit une couronne royale en récompense de sa fidélité, mais se noya avant d'avoir pu remplir sa promesse. Finalement, c'est l'empereur Henri VI qui envoya à Lévon la couronne promise. Le couronnement eut lieu le 6 janvier 1199 à Torse. Cette monnaie d'or exceptionnelle est du même type que les troms d'argent émis par Lévon I après son couronnement. Probablement frappé avec les coins d'une monnaie d'argent, ce trom en or s'inscrit cependant assez bien dans le contexte monétaire de la région. Son poids est en effet très proche de la moitié de celui d'un dinar arabe de cette époque.

Price realized 42,000 Swiss francs, plus 15% buyer's fee, SF 48,300 (US\$39,590). Numismatica Genevensis SA, *Auction 4*, December 11-12, 2006.

ARMENIAN NUMISMATIC LITERATURE

- 4 DONABEDIAN, A. H. M. Dram ew dramagitut'wn [Money and Numismatics] - *Դրամ եւ դրամագիտություն, գրեթե՝ Ասպետ Յ. Տոնապետեան*. Nor Gyank, Vol. XXVIII (13 July 2006), pp. 16-17. In Armenian.

See ANBL abstract of No. 602.

- 5 DONABEDIAN, A. H. M. Ėjer hay dramagitut'ean patmut'enēn [Pages from the History of Armenian Numismatics] - *էջեր հայ դրամագիտութեան պատմութենէն, գրեթե՝ Ասպետ Յ. Մ. Տոնապետեան, խմբագիր՝ Երուանդ Հ. Քասունի*. Beirut: Armenian Evangelical College, 2006, 116 pp. In Armenian

See ANBL abstracts of Nos. 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, and ANJ 1991, p. 54, No. 27.

The publication is a collected volume of the essays of Asbed H. M. Donabedian published in *Haigazian Armenological Review*, *Janasēr*, and *Shirak*. The titles of the articles are, "Mone and Numismatics," "Artaxiad Dynasty (189 B.C. -A.D. 6)," "A Glance at the Unpublished Coins of Tigranes III," "The Coins of the Last Rulers of the Artaxiad Dynasty of Armenia," "A Copper Coin of Artaxias I: The Founder of the Artaxiad Dynasty," "Unique and Unpublished Coins of Tigranes II and Tigranes III," "Unique and Unpublished Coins of Tigranes II and Tigranes IV," "The Coins of Artavasdes III of Artaxiad Dynasty," a book review on "Paul Z. Bedoukian: Coinage of the Artaxiads of Armenia," "The Influence of Urartuan Culture on the Most Ancient Rug in the World." The earliest article of the author appeared in *Shirak* in 1967, where the coins of Tigranes the Great is discussed in addition to money and numismatics. The latest article was published in *Haigazian Armenological Review* in 1984, where the coins of Artavasdes III is discussed.

Հրատարակութիւնը փողովածոյ մըն է Ասպետ Յ. Մ. Տոնապետեանի աշխատութիւններուն, լոյս տեսած՝ Հայկազեան Հայագիտական Համդէս, Զմաստէր և Շիրակ պարբերականներուն մէջ: Թողածներու վերնադիրները հետեւեալներն են. «Դրամ եւ դրամագիտութիւն», «Արտաշէսեան հարստութիւն (Բ.Ա. 189-Ք.Ե. 6 թթ.)», «Ակնարկ մը՝ Տիգրան Գ-ի հրատարակուած դրամներուն վրայ», «Արտաշէսեան հարստութեան վերջին գահակալներուն դրամները», «Արտաշէսեան հարստութեան հիմնադիր՝ Արտաշէս Ա-ի պղինձէ դրամը», «Տիգրան Բ-ի եւ Տիգրան Գ-ի մէկ քանի անոյի, միական դրամներ», «Տիգրան Բ-ի և Տիգրան Գ-ի մէկ քանի անոյի, միական դրամներ», «Արտաւազդ Գ. Արտաշէսեանի դրամահատութիւնը», գրախօսական «Փոլ Զարեհ Պտուկեան-Հայաստանի Արտաշէսեաններուն դրամահատութիւնը», «Ուրարտական մշակոյթին ազդեցութիւնը աշխարհի հնագոյն դրոյին վրայ»: Հեղինակին վաղագոյն յօդուածը լոյս տեսած է Շիրակի մէջ 1967-ին, ուր Մեծին Տիգրանի դրամները քննարկուած են ինչպէս նաև՝ դրամ և դրամագիտութիւն: Իր վերջին յօդուածը լոյս տեսած է Հայկազեան Հայագիտական Համդէսի մէջ 1984-ին, ուր քննարկուած է Արտաւազդ Գ-ի դրամահատութիւնը:

ԵԹՆ

- 6 KOVACS, Frank L. Tiridates I of Armenia , by Frank L. Kovacs. *Jahrbuch für Numismatik und Geldgeschichte*, Vol. 55/56 (2006/2006), pp. 105-110, 8 figures.

A brief historical background is given and two bronze coins assigned to King Tiridates I (A.D. 54-60, 66-72?) of Armenia are described. The first displays the bust of Tiridates r., bearded, draped, wearing a tiara with cross hatch and dot pattern; the reverse portrays the bust of Cleopatra r., draped and diademed (26 mm, 10.80g, 12h). The second, similarly, displays the bust of Tiridates r.; the reverse depicts Cleopatra enthroned l., holding bow and arrow, considered as a "Warrior Queen" (25mm, 8.64g, 11h). In discussing the mints, Kovacs suggest that Emperor Nero may have produced the second coin for his client kings in the mint of Antioch. The first coin possibly can be assumed to have struck in Artaxata. YTN

Տրուած է հակիրճ պատմական ակնարկ մը ու նկարագրուած են Հայոց Տրդատ Ա թագաւորին (Յ.թ. 54-60, 66-72) վերադրուած երկու բրոնզէ դրամներ: Առաջինին վրայ պատկերուած է Տրդատի

կիսանդրին դէպի աջ, մօրուսաւոր, ապարօշով, գլխուն թագ մը, զարդարուած՝ շեղանկին գլիծերով ու կէտով. ետին պատկերուած է կոչնպատրաշի կիսանդրին դէպի աջ, ապարօշով (26մմ, 10.80գ, 12ժ): Երկրորդին վրայ նմանապէս պատկերուած է Տրդատի կիսանդրին դէպի աջ. ետին՝ կոչնպատրաշ գահին վրայ բազմած ու բռնած նետ ու աղեղ, նկատուած՝ որպէս «ուզմիկ թագուհի» (25մմ, 8.64գ, 11ժ): Դրամահատարաններն քննարկելու ընթացքին, Բովակս կը թելադրէ, թէ թերեւս ներոն կայսրը արտադրած է երկրորդ դրամը Անտիոքի դրամահատարանին մէջ, իրեն ենթակայ թագաւորներուն համար: Առաջին դրամը կրնայ ենդաթրուիլ կոխուած ըլլալ Արտաշատի դրամահատարանը: Եթէ՛ն

7 MATEVOSSIAN, Raphael I. Haykakan zinanshanner: Artashēsianner, Arshakuniner, zargats'ats awatapetut'own [Armenian Coats of Arms: The Artaxiad and Arsacid dynasties and the Advanced Feudalism] - Հայկական զինանշաններ՝ Արտաշեսեաններ, Արշակունիներ, զարգացած աւատապետութիւն, գրեց՝ Ռաֆայէլ Մաթևոսեան. *Bazmavep*, Part I, Vol. CLXI (2003), Nos. 1-4, pp. 132-177; Part I, Vol. CLXII (2004), Nos. 1-4, pp. 63- 92; illus. In Armenian with English summary.

Part I. The coat of arms of the Artaxiad dynasty and Arsacid dynasty of Armenia are studied as well as those that developed during the feudalism. The study is based on the author's research in royal cemeteries as well as relevant sculptures. In part II, the coat of arms of Armenian Bagratids is re-examined based on Armenian manuscripts and architecture. YTN

Ա. Բաժին: Ուսումնասիրուած են Արտաշեսեան հարստութեան և Արշակունեաց հարստութեան զինանշանները, ինչպէս նաև աւատապետական շրջանին զարգացածները: Բանասիրութիւնը Հիմնը-ւած է Հեղինակին հետազոտութեանց վրայ, կատարած՝ արքայական թամբարաններու մէջ, ինչպէս նաև զինանշաններու վերաբերեալ արձանագործութեանց մէջ: Բ. բաժնին մէջ Բագրատունիներու զինանշանը վերաքննուած է, Հիմնուած՝ հայկական մանրանկարչութեանց և ճարտարապետութեան վրայ: Եթէ՛ն

8 SARYAN, Levon A. Counterfeit Ancient Armenian Coins in Internet Auctions, by L. A. Saryan. *Celator*, Vol. 21 (January 2007), No. 1 (235), pp. 24, 26, 27, 32, illus.

Advantages and disadvantages of purchasing coins on the internet are discussed and two counterfeit coins of Tigranes II, auctioned by internet, are described. One of them is a silver counterfeit tetradrachm and the other is a copper Tigranes counterfeit coin (previously described in gold and silver) where the head of swimmer is decapitated. YTN

Քննարկուած համաձայնի վրայ դրամ զննելու առաւելութիւններն ու անբարենպաստ պայմանները և նկարագրուած են Տիգրան Մեծի երկու կեղծ դրամները: Մէկը արծաթեայ չորեքդրամեան մըն է, իսկ միւրը՝ պղնձեայ դրամ մը՝ որ ընդօրինակուած է Տիգրան Մեծի այլ կեղծ դրամէ մը, որ նախապէս նկարագրուած է որպէս ոսկի և արծաթ, ուր լուրջօրը գլխատուած է: Եթէ՛ն

9 SARYAN, Levon A. Market Hit with Counterfeit Armenian Coins, by L. A. Saryan. *World Coin News*, Vol. 34 (February 2007), No. 2, pp 34, 36, illus.

Saryan describes a counterfeit silver double tram which he obtained recently. He discusses the rim, weight, lettering and design, strike and wear of these struck pieces; and concludes that these counterfeit double trams are 0.9 gram heavier than the expected weight of a genuine double tram. YTN

Սարեան կը նկարագրէ կեղծ երկդրամ մը, որ վերջերս ձեռք բերած է: Ինք կը քննարկէ այս զարնուած կտորներու եղբրը, ծանրութիւնը, տառերն ու պատկերատիպը, զարնուիլն ու մաշուիլը և կ'էզրակայնէ թէ այս կեղծ երկդրամները 0.9 գրամ աւելի կը կշռեն քան թէ հարազատ երկդրամները: Եթէ՛ն

10 SARYAN, Levon A. Deceptive Counterfeit Armenian Coins Reach Market, by L. A. Saryan. *Armenian Reporter*, (5 August 2006), p. 4, illus.

See abstract of No. 9.

LUTHER ESKIJIAN

(1-XI-1913-†7-IV-2007)

President of the Armenian Numismatic Society

Luther Eskijian was born on November 1, 1913, in a small village named Ekiz-Oluk in the mountains of Syria where his father, Rev. Hovhannes Eskijian started his first ministry. Due to the upheaval of World War I and the tragedies affecting the Armenian people, Rev. and Mrs. Eskijian moved their family to Aleppo, Syria, to pastor a church. In the course of that ministry Rev. and Mrs. Eskijian saved many hundreds of refugees from further deportation and death caused by the Turkish genocide of the Armenian people, an event which occurred during the years 1915-1918. Luther's father ministered especially to the orphans, and was part of an underground movement in Syria to save as many Armenians as possible, but he lost his life in 1916. Mrs. Gulenia Eskijian carried on the work through the American Red Cross until she and her two sons, Luther and John, immigrated to the United States.

Before they immigrated to the United States they returned to Mrs. Eskijian's ancestral home in Aintab, Turkey. The Germans were in that area and were shooting at any Armenian they saw in the streets. Luther recounts: "Our stairway to the second floor in the family home was outside on a kind of balcony. They could see us from a half a mile away and shoot at us. They were very well-trained. I don't know where they got the guns, but our guns were registered before the massacre. Then right before the massacre the Turks came and took all of our guns, so we had nothing with which to defend ourselves. At the age of six and a half I took food to the Armenians who were fighting the Turks in Aintab." For this service, the Aintab Compatriotic Union issued Luther a citation of honor for service to the nation.

In 1920, like thousands before him, as a young boy of 7 years old, Luther crossed the ocean on a third class ticket, refugee status, and was processed by the U.S. government at Ellis Island. He arrived in a new world, now knowing the language or the culture.

Without funds or resources in American, the family struggled to survive, but through perseverance, his faith and hard work, Luther established himself in business and obtained an education as an architect. At the age of 24 he designed and built a commercial and apartment building in Pasadena, still a source of retirement income. He had two mines, one tungsten located in San Diego, the other, lead and silver, with veins of lead and silver from one to two inches thick. This mine was located at about 8500 foot elevation near Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. He started to send mining equipment to the site when WWII started and all non-essential activities were stopped. He had to close both mines. In the meanwhile he had two housing developments under design and construction, one in Azusa, California, and the other in Las Vegas, Nevada. The construction called for reinforced masonry. When WWII started, no steel could be used, which stopped the project.

So, before his own personal plans could progress very far, World War II caught up with Luther and he was drafted into the armed forces, serving from October 1942 to January 1946. Prior to being shipped overseas he married his California fiancée, Anne Hotzakorgian, in November of 1943 at the base chapel of Camp Monroe, North Carolina. Shortly thereafter he was sent overseas.

Luther remembers: "I started out as a buck private, a sergeant, then warrant officer, then air corps. From the air corps to the intelligence corps and from the intelligence corps to the engineer corps, and was later transferred to General Eisenhower's headquarters in Paris to the Office of Chief Engineer, European Theater of Operations." His job was to design hospitals throughout the war front following General Patton's Eighth Army from the Rhine River to Berlin, as cities were liberated and large buildings were evacuated for hospital use. When the Americans captured a city, they would want to convert any big building into a hospital, and sketches were needed immediately.

During his service in Europe, Luther had little personal time, but when he did, he visited cathedrals and unusual buildings, making sketches of scenes of beauty and devastation. He also purchased art objects from antique shops. These collector's items would become the basis of his extensive collection of antiques for the museum he would establish later in life.

Returning to the United States after his tour of duty in January of 1946, he met his first child, Carol, who was born while he was serving in France. Luther and Anne resumed their life, a home was established and two other children were born, Martin and Nancy. Luther expanded his career as an architect and businessman. He designed and built many smaller institutional buildings, churches, schools and banks.

Just a brief summary of his activities includes the following:

1. Served in every capacity with his church of 700, as Moderator, Chairman of the Trustees, Chairman of the Building Committee, designer and construction supervisor of one major building and remodeling of another, Sunday school teacher--he was blessed to be able to teach Sunday school to young teenage boys for nearly ten years;
2. Director and Chairman of the Building Committee, designer and supervisor of construction for four major buildings for the Pasadena Christian School (attendance 600);
3. Member of the Rotary Club of Altadena, with service on most committees; Fifty years of perfect attendance to weekly meetings; Best club award in his year as President of the club;
4. Served on the National Board of Directors of the Armenian Missionary Association of America; Western Chairman of all chapters for many years;
5. Served on the Board of Directors of Haigazian College in Beirut, Lebanon, and was instrumental in its founding.
6. Served on the formation Board of Directors of the Armenian American International College; wrote by-laws and secured its charter;
7. Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Armenian Bible College, now the Emmanuel Bible College, attaining excellence and accreditation;
8. Trustee for Ms. Elise Merdinian, and directing her estate into an Armenian evangelical school on her demise;
9. Served as advisor and correspondent for Mr. John Sheen for over 25 years, directing his multi-million dollar estate into philanthropic Christian causes, including the Armenian Missionary Association of America, churches and schools. His relationship with Mr. Sheen enabled the building the Sheen Memorial Chapel at the Ararat Home.

10. Designed and built some dozen small churches, for Armenian as well as Anglo and African-American congregations without charge;
11. Served as advisor to the Ararat Home of Los Angeles in the development of their major community complex, and particularly the design and construction of the Sanctuary (Sheen Memorial Chapel) and Ararat-Eskijian Museum within the complex in Mission Hill, California. He was man of the year for the Ararat Home.
12. Served on the Board of Directors of the Altadena American Legion;
13. Lecturer on the scientific evidence and artifacts supporting Noah's Ark;
14. Assisted many people in their design and construction needs when they could not afford the services;
15. Organized and chaired the 50th reunion of his 1932 high school graduation class, with some 450 attending;
16. Served on many community committees and wrote safety features to the newspapers at the beginning of school for over 25 years for the protection of children at the start of school;
17. Served as an Arbitrator with the American Arbitration Association for construction arbitration. The panels consisted of three members including one lay person, one attorney and one technical professional. Mr. Eskijian was the technical professional.
18. One of the founders and president of the Armenian Numismatic Society.
19. Mr. Eskijian has also started a corrosion engineering company called Specialties Engineering Corporation. The corporation specialized in circulating water systems. Mr. Eskijian wrote about 100 technical papers on the subject, with about a dozen inventions and patents in this industry. To assist in the business of that company Mr. Eskijian developed over one dozen patents. He is still patenting inventions as of 2006 at the age of 92.
20. Sketches of the World War II scenes and outstanding churches, many of which have been put on the Eskijian's yearly Christmas cards.

In retirement, Mr. Eskijian spent many years in the planning and construction of an outstanding edifice of ancient Armenian architecture, a Sanctuary and Museum, for the Ararat Home of Los Angeles. The sanctuary is most unusual in that it uses modern materials, but incorporates ancient designs, with beamed ceilings, a central cupola with an ancient gold cross on top, stained glass windows of Biblical scenes, natural split face blocks and marble altar. It is similar in construction to ancient Armenian churches over a thousand years old.

The lower floor of the sanctuary contains the Ararat-Eskijian Museum, which houses many historical Armenian artifacts from before the time of Christ, along with European and Middle Eastern artifacts, handicrafts of the Armenian people, art and sculpture, including an outstanding sculpture outside the Museum conceived by Mr. Eskijian called "Mother Armenia Arising out of the Ashes," dedicated to both those who survived and perished in the Armenian Genocide of 1915. One section of the Museum is devoted to American patriotic artifacts of Presidents Washington and Lincoln. Another features Luther's father who perished in the Genocide as he was rescuing Armenians in the city of Aleppo, Syria. The Museum has an outstanding Genocide library with many rare books. The church and Museum serves the extensive Armenian community in the Los Angeles area.

Mr. Eskjijan's life has been one of faith in Jesus Christ, service, compassion, artistry, business, and very importantly family. He is survived by his beloved wife Anne of 63 years, daughter Carol Kazanjian, son-in-law, Howard Kazanjian, son Martin Eskjijan, daughter-in-law, Effie Eskjijan, daughter Nancy Eskjijan, and three grandchildren, Peter, Noah and Andrew Kazanjian, and brother John Bennett of Aladena, California.

Luther Eskjijan was 93 and battled Parkinson's disease for almost 10 years, yet never complained. He remained active, up until his last few months.

He passed away on April 7, 2007.

Services were held on Saturday April 14, 2007, at 1:00 PM at the Sheen Memorial Chapel of the Ararat Home in Mission Hills, California.

One of his legacies was the Ararat-Eskjijan Museum. In Lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the Ararat-Eskjijan Museum, 15105 Mission Hills Road, Mission Hills, California 91345 (Additional information about the museum can be found at Ararat-Eskjijan-Museum.com). There was a private family interment at a later date.

Nancy ESKIJIAN

ARMENIAN NUMISMATIC LITERATURE

- 11 NERCESSIAN Y. T. Metrology of Cilician Armenian Coinage Project Announced. *Celator*, Vol. 20 (October 2006), No. 10 (232), p. 56.

The announcement proposes to prepare a major study to create metrological tables on the coins struck by all rulers of Cilician Armenia.

Author

Յայտարարութիւնը կ'առաջարկէ պատրաստել մեծ ուսումնասիրութիւն մը, ստեղծելու չափազիտական աղիւսակներ այդ զրամներուն վրայ, որոնք հատանուած են կիլիկեան Հայաստանի բոլոր գահակալներուն կողմէ:

Հեղինակը

- 12 NERCESSIAN, Y. T. *A Short History of Armenian Martyrs Memorial Monument in Montebello, California*, by Y. T. Nercessian. Montebello: Armenian Monument Council, Inc., Montebello, California, 2007, 16 pp., illus. Armenian summary.

An historical background is provided on the construction of Armenian Martyrs Memorial Monument in Montebello and gold and brass-colored lapel pins are described.

Author

Տրուած է պատմական ուրուագիծ մը Մոնթեբելլոյի մէջի Հայ Նահատակաց Յուշարձանի կառուցման և նկարագրուած են յուշարձանին ոսկիէ ու արուլբէ կրծքանշանները: Հեղինակը (For a copy write to: Armenian Monument Council, Inc., 2445 W. Whittier Blvd., Suite 202, Montebello, California 90640, U.S.A.)

- 13 NUMISMATICA GENEVENSIS SA. *Vente aux enchères 4*. Geneva: Numismatica Genevensis SA, 11-12 December 2006, No. 341. In French.

Levon I (1199-1219) gold half tahekan with two lions is listed for sale at auction. Weight, 2.21 grams, suggested price 20,000 Swiss francs (sold for 42,000).

YTN

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Series II

Volume 3 (33), No. 3

September 2007

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ARMENIAN

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NUMISMATIC

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JOURNAL

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ARMENIAN NUMISMATIC JOURNAL

Series II

Vol. 3 (33), No. 3

September 2007

MEMBERSHIP DUES INCREASE

Dear Friends and Members:

The last time we announced an increase in our annual membership dues and subscription fees was in late 2001. Since then our operating expenses have increased so much that the books we sell cover part of our operating expenses. Obviously we cannot function like this.

We do not pay rent for our office. Our labor consists of members who donate their time free of charge. Their personal automobiles, telephones, home electricity are being used for the Society free of charge. However, we need to pay for the printing and shipping of our *Journal*. Since 2001 our cost of printing the *Journal* has increased 40%, mailing of the *Journal* to our membership and subscribers has increased more than 35%. In simple language, our operating costs far exceed our income.

Having this in mind, the new rates for 2008 are: annual membership dues for U.S. members to \$45, foreign members \$55, non-member U.S. subscriptions \$60, non-member foreign subscriptions \$70. We are hoping that donations and income from membership dues and subscriptions will cover our operating expenses, and we will not be forced to repeat this in a few years. Note that there is no more surface mail going out of the U.S. All mail, including letters, periodicals, and books go out AIR MAIL.

ԱՆԴԱՄԱՏՈՒՐՔԻ ՅԱԻԵԼՈՒՄ

Յարգելի բարեկամներ ու անդամներ,

Վերջին անգամ 2001 թուականին էր երբ մենք ունեցանք մեր անդամատուրքերու եւ բաժանորդներու գիներու սակի յաւելում: Այդ ժամանակէն ի վեր մեր ծախսերը աւելցած են այնպէս, որ մեր ծախած գիրքերուն հասոյթին մէկ մասը կը գործածուի կազմակերպութեան գործունէութեան ծախսերուն համար: Անկասկած մենք այսպէս չենք կրնար շարունակել:

Կազմակերպութիւնը գրասենեակի վարձք չվճառել: Մեզի կատարուած աշխատանքը ձրի է կամաւորներու կողմէ: Իրենց անձնական ինքնաշարժները, հեռաձայները, տան ելեկտրակա-նութիւնը կը գործածուին ձրիօրէն կազմակերպութեան համար: Սակայն մենք պէտք է դրամ վճարենք մեր Հանդէսի տպագրութեան ու առաքման համար: 2001 թուականէն ի վեր Հանդէսին տպագրական ծախսը աւելցած է 40 առ հարիւր, իսկ առաքման ծախսը 35 առ հարիւրէն աւելի է: Պարզ լեզուով մեր ծախսերը կը գերազանցեն հասոյթին:

Այս ունենալով մեր խոհերուն մէջ, 2008-էն սկսեալ նոր սակերն են. ԱՄՆ-ի տարեկան անդամատուրքերը պիտի բարձրացուին \$45-ի, օտար երկիրներու անդամներու համար \$55-ի, ԱՄՆ-ի բաժանորդագրութիւնը ոչ-անդամներու համար \$60-ի, օտար երկիրներու բաժանորդագրութիւնը \$70-ի: Կը յուսանք որ նուիրատուութիւններն ու հասոյթները անդամատուրքերէ եւ բաժանորդագրութիւններէ բաւարար պիտի ըլլան գործունէութեան ծախսերը փակելու եւ պիտի չհարկադրուին այլ անդամատուրքի յաւելումի մը գոնէ բանի մը տարուան համար: Առ ի ծանօթութիւն.- Ծովային ճամբով այլեւս ԱՄՆ-էն դուրս առաքում գոյութիւն չունի: Բոլոր թղթակցութիւնները, ներառեալ նամակները, պարբերաբարքերը, եւ գիրքերը կ'առաքուին միայն ՕՊ-ԱՅԻՆ ՃԱՄԲՈՎ:

ARMENIAN NUMISMATIC JOURNAL is the quarterly publication of Armenian Numismatic Society, an educational, non-profit organization. Editor, Y. T. Nercessian, 8511 Beverly Park Place, Pico Rivera, CA 90660-1920, USA (webpage: www.ArmNumSoc.org); e-mail: ArmNumSoc@aol.com). Associate Editors, W. Gemenian and T. Nercessian, Corresponding Editors, L. A. Saryan. Non-member subscriptions \$60/70 per year. **ISSN 0884-0180—LCCN 85-649443**

ANNOUNCEMENT

Nercessian, Y. T. *Metrology of Cilician Armenian Coinage – Չափագրությունների Հայտնի Արժեքները*. Los Angeles: Armenian Numismatic Society, *Special Publication* No. 13, 2007, xiv, 161 pp., 8½x11” format, card covers (short run, 100 copies printed, discounted net price to all parties). US shipping \$6, CA sales tax \$2.89. \$35.00

The metrological data of more than 11,000 Cilician Armenian coins (gold, silver, and copper) are catalogued in this book.

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THOSE WHO WOULD LIKE TO DONATE AUCTION CATALOGUES TO THE HISTORY MUSEUM OF ARMENIA PLEASE MAIL OR DELIVER THEM TO THE ARMENIAN NUMISMATIC SOCIETY. THE SOCIETY WILL UNDERTAKE THE FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY OF THE SHIPMENT TO EREVAN, ARMENIA.

LETTERS AND E-MAILS TO THE EDITOR

IN MEMORY OF LUTHER ESKIJIAN

Thank you for attending the service for my dad, and the generous donation to his museum—one of his many legacies, and part of his vision. Thanks again.
Marin Eskijian

The Ararat-Eskijian Museum Associates thanks the members of your organization for your donation of \$100 in memory of Luther Eskijian.

We appreciate your interest in the Ararat-Eskijian Museum and thank you for the support of this unique Institution.

Maggie Mangassarian-Goschin
Vice Chairlady
Ararat-Eskijian Museum

Wants to exchange *Armenian Numismatic Journal*

We have a specialized library (numismatics, money history, economic history); it is frequently used by scholars, students, collectors, etc.

We have many periodicals, all of the world, that we obtain in exchange of our own periodical “Annali.”

The *Armenian Numismatic Journal* is present only up to volume XV.

Do you want to exchange the following volumes for our “Annali.”

Hoping in a positive answer, we thank you in advance.

Best Wishes,
Sara Sorda, Ddirector
Istituto Italiano di Numismatica, Roma

Editor’s reply

We have received your letter of February 7, 2007; where you asked if we want to exchange our *Armenian Numismatic Journal* with your *Annali* periodical.

We are extremely flattered that you would like to grace the bookshelves of your Istituto Italiano di Numismatica library with our *Armenian Numismatic Journal* which is printing volume 33 (2007). This is a great honor for us.

The Armenian Numismatic Society is a small organization; and we don’t have a library for the daily use and reference of our membership. The only way we could facilitate your request is to find customers for your publication to make payment for ours. Furthermore, because of our publications, our Society is operating in the red.
YTN

NEED INFORMATION ON KING LEVON’S GOLD COIN

A few months ago we met an old friend. He said that he was in Michigan and visited the Manooagian Museum. There he saw an authentic gold coin of King Levon I.

A few years ago we made an inventory of all Cilician Armenian gold coins. Then we were not aware of the Manooagian Museum holding. We wrote to the curator of this museum, no response. Who can provide us accurate information, metrological data, and a photograph of this coin?
YTN

YEGHIA T. NERCESSIAN: A MAN DEDICATED TO ARMENIAN NUMISMATICS

Childhood

Yeghia Toros Nercessian was born in a refugee camp in Aleppo, Syria, near the location of the Bethel Armenian Protestant Church, on February 19, 1931. He was the eldest son of Toros and Aznive (née Kilejian) Nercessian, both of whom lost their fathers during the 1915 Armenian Genocide.

The Nercessian family did not live in the most ideal of circumstances. Still fresh in Yeghia's memory is the occasion when one of the walls of the shack they called home crashed down amid a cold winter rainstorm, sending water flooding inside. Soon after the chaos subsides, Yeghia's mother comforts him as she continues her embroidery work on a manual Singer sewing machine.

Toros Nercessian's ancestors migrated from Sassoun in historic Armenia during the 1790s and settled in Aintab, Cilicia.

Yeghia was baptized on August 16, 1931, in St. Astouadzadzin (St. Mary) Church in Aleppo at six months of age. Fr. Nshan Markarian officiated the ceremony with Toros' first cousin, Yeghia Boyajian, as baby Yeghia's godfather. Baby Yeghia was christened in honor of his paternal grandfather.

In 1936 the family relocated to the Nor Kiugh (a.k.a. Meidan) suburb in Aleppo.

Elementary Education

In 1936, Yeghia's parents began construction on an adobe brick house on Fifth Street, in Nor Kiugh, one street away from Zeytoun Khan where many Armenian refugees called home. While forming the foundation of the house, Yeghia would enthusiastically carry stones to help the masons. The last stone that he carried fell on his right big toe. Little Yeghia eventually recovered, receiving a fresh toenail after months of limping and pain. Yeghia lived in this house through much of his teenage years.

Yeghia's mother's maternal aunt, Lucia, and her family (her husband, Hagop Keshishian, and daughter, Ephronia) lived in the courtyard of this new home. Ephronia was a teacher at Oussoumnassiratz School in the Nor Kiugh district. Ephronia, first cousin to Yeghia's mother, would hold Yeghia's hand each morning on the way to school. They would pass Nor Kiugh Women's Hospital, cutting through the empty fields along the way. Yeghia completed Kindergarten through second grade at Oussoumnassiratz.

In 1943, after the assassination of school principal, Levon Levonian IX (known as "To Levon" where the Armenian letter "To" denotes 9th), the Nor Kiugh school was closed. Yeghia continued his elementary education in the City Oussoumnassiratz School on Shabura Street in Aleppo. A few years later Sarkis Balabanian joined the school staff as principal and mathematics teacher. Additionally, Onnik Sarkissian began his tenure as Armenian teacher.

Both of these instructors left a strong impression on Yeghia in their respective fields. Yeghia was an excellent student generally, but particularly in mathematics, Armenian, and history.

For several years, Yeghia volunteered as librarian of the City Oussoumnassiratz School. He went to school every Sunday, unlocked the doors of the library bookcases, and lent books to the public. He provided care to all books. His favored books were literary, historical, and ethnographical. In his teenage years he was hypnotized by K. J. Basmadjian's *Numismatique generale de l'Armenie* (which no one borrowed).

Yeghia's father was a weaver by trade and had four looms in the house. He rented out two of these to other workers, worked himself on one of them, and assigned Yeghia to the fourth. Yeghia worked at nights and during his spare time. Even though Yeghia had received apprentice training as a jeweler (via a local jeweler, Levon Daghljan), it was more profitable to work as a part time weaver than jeweler. And certainly money was a concern since, beside Yeghia, the family by now had three other younger children. Yeghia was employed with this work until he departed Aleppo.

Secondary School Years

Yeghia graduated from the City Oussoumnassiratz School in 1947. He continued his secondary education at Aleppo College, an American private school. He started here as an 8th grade student (Oussoumnassiratz was a seven year elementary school); however, because of his high grades he was quickly moved to 9th grade, which he finished with excellent grades. He graduated from Aleppo College's secondary school section in 1950.

While at Aleppo College, Yeghia wrote a book review of Gegham Sarian's *Hatentir* literature book. This review was published in Aleppo College's *Graser* Armenian periodical. Here it is worth mentioning that an important part of this school's student and faculty body were Armenians. Yeghia's Armenian teachers at Aleppo College include Babikian, Balikian, Adrouny, Saatjian, Darakjian.

University Years

In 1950 and into 1951, Yeghia attended Aleppo College — now as a freshman in college. At this time, Yeghia's maternal aunt Ovsanna (who was living first in Albany and then Troy, NY) tried to persuade Yeghia's parents to permit him to travel to America and to continue his education there. Toros and Aznive acquiesced and sent Yeghia to America.

Yeghia was admitted to Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI) in Troy, NY, a school already well known as an engineering college and university. He began at RPI in September 1951.

Prior to this, Yeghia's cousin Ephronia Keshishian (recall, who had lived with Yeghia's family in Aleppo) married Charles Nazarian. Yeghia lived with his cousin and her family for four years while attending RPI. Yeghia proudly became godfather to Ephronia's and Charles' third and fourth children.

In Troy, NY, there were a few thousand Armenians (a community that survives to this day). Here the Armenians erected St. Peter Armenian Church. Yeghia sang in the St. Peter's choir for a year. The Troy Armenian community at this time did not have daily or even a Saturday Armenian school. During his years in Troy, Yeghia wrote a paper on Armenian student life in a foreign country. This was published in the Armenian Relief Society periodical in 1953. At nights and during his spare time Yeghia worked in supermarkets, factories, offices, and also on his school campus. Eventhough he lived with his rela-

tives, RPI was a private institution and so expenses abounded. At RPI, Yeghia studied Electrical Engineering and specialized in electronics. He graduated in June 1955 and received Bachelor of Electrical Engineering degree.

In 1953, in Aleppo, Yeghia's mother passed away. This left Yeghia in deep mourning.

A First Engineering Position

After graduating from RPI, Yeghia started working for Sarkes Tarzian, Inc. in Bloomington, IN. In this city there were only two Armenian families: the Tarzian family and a cousin of Sarkes Tarzian, Gourgen Mahikian. Georgen relocated to Chicago a few months later with a new job. Sarkes Tarzian was a very patriotic, noble, and benevolent Armenian. With much self help and great sacrifice, he had reached the position of owning a large electronics plant as well as radio and television stations. He had thousands of people working for him. Tarzian's specialty was electrical engineering; and his wife was an attorney. Less than a year after beginning work for Tarzian, Yeghia was drafted into the US Army on April 5, 1956.

Army Years

Yeghia began his Army career at Ft. Leonard Wood, Missouri, with basic training. He spent three months at this base with no opportunity to even step foot off the fort. Upon completion of his basic infantry training, he was shipped to Ft. Sam Houston, Texas. His assigned military occupational specialty (MOS) was medical equipment repairman, notably because of his electrical engineering education. Ft. Sam Houston was close to the city of San Antonio where there were three Armenian families.

The Paul Kassarian family was one of these families. Paul was an oriental rug and antique dealer. Yeghia established a friendship with him and visited him at least once a month, typically on Sundays. In 1956, during one of these visits, Paul took Yeghia to his store and showed him a sword nearly twice the size of Yeghia's US Army issue bayonet. The lettering on the silver shield was worn out but Yeghia could read the Armenian inscription: "LEVON TAKAVOR HAYOTs" (ԼԵՒՈՆ ԹԱԳԱՒՈՐ ՀԱՅՈՑ), meaning "Levon King of the Armenians". This moment was one of great joy and excitement for Yeghia. He was holding the sword of a legendary Armenian king in his hands! Here he was, serving in the US Army, in a distant location in Texas where there were only a few Armenians, and one of them was an antiquarian who had a sword belonging to an Armenian king, Levon Roupenian.

Later, in the 1960s, Paul Kassarian mentioned to Yeghia that he would consider donating this piece of Cilician antiquity to the Museum of the Armenian Catholicosate of the Great House of Cilicia. Paul believed that His Holiness Khoren Catholicos was, in fact, a childhood classmate of his. Seizing the moment, Yeghia corresponded with His Holiness Khoren Catholicos so that the Catholicosate might encourage Paul to eventually donate the sword to the Museum.

In 1957, Yeghia's US Army commander informed him that if Yeghia applied and if his application were approved, he might be promoted from private to second lieutenant. On June 7, 1957, Yeghia was promoted to second lieutenant and transferred to Ft. Bliss, Texas.

Ft. Bliss is close to the city of El Paso where there was no Armenian. But Yeghia did find one Armenian soldier in the US Army. During his military service, Yeghia occasionally attended religious services at nearby Greek Orthodox churches.

In Ft. Bliss, Yeghia was assigned to the US Army Air Defense School, Staff and Faculty, Research Laboratory where he remained until the end of his active military service, June 29, 1959. Just prior to being released from active duty, Yeghia was granted US citizenship in El Paso District Court on April 6, 1959.

Visit to Lebanon

After being released from active duty, Yeghia first worked for Lockheed Aircraft Co., Avionics Dept. in Burbank, CA. A year later he resigned from Lockheed and joined General Electric Heavy Military Electronics Dept. in Syracuse, NY.

While working for General Electric, he took a few months leave of absence to visit his brothers, sister, and aging father, as well as other relatives who were in Lebanon and also those who could come from Aleppo to Beirut. While visiting some relatives in Tripoli, Lebanon, he was introduced to Miss Anahid Srabonian. A few months later, the Nercessian family asked for the hand of Anahid for Yeghia. On September 24, 1961, they were married in Beirut's St. Nshan Church. Officiating the ceremony was the Primate of Lebanon, Archbishop Khoren Paroyan (later Catholicos of the Great House of Cilicia with whom Yeghia later corresponded regarding Paul Kassarian's Cilician sword) and Fr. Housig Ayanian. Hagop Alexanian, a family cousin, served as best man.

Profession and Family

The severe cold winters of Syracuse, the warm and attractive climate of Southern California, and the job offer of General Dynamics in Pomona, CA, persuaded Yeghia to resign from his Syracuse engineering position and move to Pomona. Within a few years, the family moved to Pico Rivera, CA, a suburb of Los Angeles, to a location adjacent to the newly established Armenian Mesrobian School. Yeghia and Anahid Nercessian were blessed with four children: Susan, Terenik, Annette, and Armen. Each graduated from Armenian Mesrobian Elementary and High School, and later from area universities.

In Los Angeles and its suburb cities, Yeghia worked with North American Aviation, Space and Information Division (with later name changes and mergers: Rockwell International and now Boeing Aircraft) for twenty years in avionics departments of space and military projects. He also worked at Hughes Helicopters for five years in the avionics section. He retired in 1990. Since then, Yeghia Nercessian's time has been fully dedicated to Armenian numismatics.

The Collector

Yeghia Nercessian has been a collector of books, postage stamps, and coins since his youth. But his modest financial condition did not permit him to cultivate these hobbies to their full extent.

In 1964, while he was employed by North American Aviation, during a lunch break, he thought he heard Armenian conversation. Yeghia turned around and asked them if they were Armenian. They introduced themselves; one of them was Wartan Gewenian (the future treasurer of Armenian Numismatic Society), and the other, Sebouh Tashjian (the future Minister of Energy, Republic of Armenia). After that day, when it was convenient during lunch breaks, they visited each other to discuss many national issues.

One day Wartan Gewenian reported that a man named George Marderosian had opened a coin store. Along with the American coins that Marderosian had for sale, he also had some

Armenian silver coins belonging to the Roupenian dynasty of Cilicia. Yeghia ordered four silver coins, each one a gift to each of his four children. His hope was that they may learn that their ancestors had been a civilized nation with a national government and that this government had issued coins with effigies of Armenian kings.

In metropolitan Los Angeles, some Armenians had organized an Armenian Collector's Club. Every type of collector (book, coin, bank note, postage stamp, postcard, map, envelope) attended this meeting. Dr. Paul Carnig had the responsibility of scheduling the meetings as well as preparing and mailing the announcements. Originally he used plain post cards to invite every one to the meeting. After the Armenian Memorial Monument of Montebello was built in 1968, Dr. Carnig started using the very attractive postcards of this monument for his meeting notices. The meetings would occasionally include a pertinent lecture. Additionally dealers would attend to buy and sell books, coins, and other collectibles.

The Founding of Armenian Coin Club

Yeghia Nercessian, Wartan Gewenian, and George Marderosian met on February 27, 1971, at the residence of Yeghia Nercessian in Pico Rivera, CA, and founded the "Armenian Coin Club" in order to concentrate on Armenian numismatics and provide the impetus to bring together Armenian coin collectors. This was the nucleus of what was to be known as the "Armenian Numismatic Society." To this day the Nercessian house is used as the mailing address of the organization. The Club decided to accept applications of all those who had interest in collecting Armenian coins, bank notes, medals, postage stamps, and other artifacts. George Marderosian was elected President, Wartan Gewenian as Treasurer, and Yeghia Nercessian as Secretary. A regular meeting would take place on the last Friday of each month at the Armenian Mesrobian School in Pico Rivera. Membership cards were printed for the "Armenian Coin Club". Initial membership dues were \$2 per year. Before the end of the year the membership count had climbed to twelve.

The Establishment of Communication with Paul Z. Bedoukian

In 1962 a book was published on the coinage of the Roupenian dynasty by the American Numismatic Society, authored by Dr. Paul Z. Bedoukian. This English language book, *Coinage of Cilician Armenia*, was out of print. The publisher had no copies left for sale. In one of the meetings of the Armenian Coin Club, the Club decided to write a letter to the author and ask his opinion about how to obtain copies of his book. Since Bedoukian's address was unknown, the Club mailed a letter dated August 26, 1971 to the care of the American Numismatic Society where Bedoukian had been a member for a few decades. Dr. Bedoukian answered with his September 6, 1971 dated letter, congratulating the founding of the organization. He also donated a copy of the subject book from his personal collection to organization's library. He also informed the secretary of the Club that the Armenian edition can be purchased from the Mekhitarist Congregation in Vienna. On September 29, 1971, the Armenian Coin Club elected Dr. Paul Z. Bedoukian as an Honorary Member.

The Founding of the Armenian Coins and Books: Bulletin

Armenian Coin Club members always wanted to order books through the Secretary of the Club, Yeghia Nercessian. In order to satisfy the needs of Club members, in 1971, Yeghia Nercessian started selling coins and books and published a fixed price list known as *Armenian Coins and Books: Bulletin*, No. 1 (1972). Soon, collectors from other states and foreign countries started asking for copies of the *Bulletin*. This has been a mail order and side

business which continues to this day because of Yeghia Nercessian's love and dedication for Armenian coins and books.

Exhibits

The Armenian Coin Club frequently exhibited coins, medals, bank notes, and numismatic books. One such exhibit was held on December 19, 1971, at the Ararat Home, an Armenian senior citizen's center. Another one was held at the University of California, Los Angeles from April 15 to June 15, 1974. Various other exhibits were organized and displayed at Los Angeles City College (April 3, 1975), the Armenian Center in Montebello in cooperation with the Armenian Relief Society (February 26, 1985), the Holy Cross Cathedral in Montebello (January 31, 1986), among others. In preparing for all these activities, Yeghia Nercessian took on much of the work. The organization gave lectures and exhibited Armenian coins to secondary students of Armenian schools and donated a complete set of Armenian numismatic books available on the market to their libraries. The secretary was instrumental in forming a slide library of coins, medals, and bank notes which was used in public and private lectures.

Armenian Numismatic Society and Bedoukian's Visit to Los Angeles

In deference to members who had expressed a desire to hold occasional meetings in their homes instead of at the Armenian Mesrobian School, the Club decided to hold the meetings on an alternating basis — one month on the school campus, and the following month at the home of a member host. This arrangement continued through 1972. At the request of Armenian Mesrobian School authorities, the meeting place moved out of school campus altogether. First, the Club held meeting in the meeting room of Republic Federal Savings and Loan Association in Pico Rivera from November 1975 to November 1976. Later, from March 1977 to September 1978, meetings were held at the Armenian Center in Montebello. In January 1975, some members had requested less frequent meetings and by majority vote the meeting schedule was changed to four meetings per year, held bimonthly (except during the summer). After October 1978, meetings were held at the residence of a host member. During the meeting each member would speak about his latest coin or book acquisitions and lectures were given on Armenian coins. Some of these lectures were subsequently printed in book form or as an article in the organization's *Journal*.

Since the name "Armenian Coin Club" represented a localized activity, it could not embody an international association or permit extending invitations to out-of-state and foreign coin collectors to join the Club. Furthermore, a club has social implications and does not necessarily offer a forum to cultivate and publish scholarly numismatic papers and books. After a long discussion and some passionate debate, by majority vote, on June 23, 1972, the name of the organization was changed to "Armenian Numismatic and Artifact Society" (ANAS). A few months later, a Constitution and By-Laws were drafted.

ANAS established communication with numismatist Khatchadour Mousheghian, the curator of the numismatic section of the State Museum of Armenian History in Yerevan, Armenian SSR. In 1973, Mousheghian's second book, *Coin Hoards of Armenia*, was published. On August 17, 1974, upon the recommendation of Yeghia Nercessian, the membership unanimously decided to elect him an Honorary Member.

Dr. Paul Z. Bedoukian visit to the Society's meeting on September 14, 1974, was an ANAS milestone. He spoke about his experience in writing *Coinage of Cilician Armenia* (1962) and his plan to prepare a corpus on the coinage of the Artaxiads of Armenia. He also

answered numerous questions relating to Armenian numismatics. He autographed his books which were brought to the meeting by the members. The ANAS membership presented Dr. Bedoukian the gold pin of Armenian Memorial Monument in Montebello.

For its numerous activities, ANAS would mail press releases to various Armenian and numismatic papers. The American and international press were often shortening the Society's name, calling the organization "Armenian Numismatic Society." Furthermore, the interest of the Los Angeles area membership seemed to be primarily in numismatics and archaeology (including ancient and medieval Armenian architecture). There was much less interest in artifacts. Without any debate, on December 7, 1974, the organization changed its name to "Armenian Numismatic Society."

As a result of the Society's news releases, the secretary began receiving correspondence from Armenian coin collectors. A few of them joined the Society as members. It became necessary to establish a medium of communication to keep out-of-state members informed about the activities of the Armenian Numismatic Society. Unanimously, on February 15, 1975, the membership voted to start publishing the *Armenian Numismatic Journal* (Հայ Դրամագիտական Հանդես) as a bilingual quarterly publication in the format of a newsletter. Yeghia Nercessian was elected as the editor, a position he maintains to date. The first issue was published in March 1975. "Series I" was printed on the cover with the hope that "Series II" could be converted to an attractive glossy quarterly publication.

The *Armenian Numismatic Journal* is modest in appearance. In content and quality, however, it does not remain far behind other Armenological and academic periodicals. In 2007 the *Journal* completed its thirty-third volume. Because of participation of renowned numismatists, the quarterly journal has received the recognition of a scholarly periodical and is of great value to international museums and numismatists.

Henry Sarkissian, one of the numismatists of the State Museum of Armenian history, had written numerous Armenian articles. His continuous submittals of abstracts on Armenian numismatic literature, and with the request of Yeghia Nercessian, on June 27, 1975, he was voted an Honorary Member and a Corresponding Editor of the *Armenian Numismatic Journal*.

In 1971 Yeghia Nercessian had started collecting a copy of each piece of published Armenian numismatic literature (books and articles or photocopies of them). For his personal use he was preparing abstracts on each one of these publications. When he started publishing the *Armenian Numismatic Journal*, he created a special section under the title of "Armenian Numismatic Literature." Here he presented the bibliography of all recently published literature with bilingual abstracts in English and Armenian. This section continues through today and remains an integral part and the most sought after section of the *Journal*.

The Auction of Artavasdes II Drachm

The Numismatic Fine Arts (NFA), established in Los Angeles from 1975, was one of the leading firms involved with the sale of classical coins in the United States. Ancient Armenian coins were frequently listed in their auction catalogues. In auction catalogue V (February 23-24, 1978), the NFA listed an extremely rare drachm of Artavasdes II (55-34 BC).

Yeghia Nercessian's maternal grandmother, Yakout Kilejian (née Yepremian), had migrated to America and was living with her daughter, Ovsanna (Yeghia's aunt who was step-

mother to Charles Nazarian and who had helped bring Yeghia to the US). On February 14, 1971, after living ten years in Greater Los Angeles area she passed away due to a stroke.

About a week prior to the auction of the Artavasdes drachm, Yeghia's Yakout grandmother appears in Yeghia's dream asking for money (this is now seven years after her passing). The following morning, Yeghia recounted this dream to his wife, Anahid. Anahid turned and replied, "you are going to go some place and spend big money." Here it should be noted that Anahid had no knowledge about the forthcoming NFA Auction V.

Around this time, but before the auction, a collector came from Canada and visited Nercessian. The Canadian collector wished to purchase a drachm of Artavasdes II. Nercessian asked him how much he was willing to pay. With calmness, the visiting collector replied \$200. Nercessian responded, letting his guest know that he would need more ammunition, "you bring me any such drachm and I'll pay you \$1000 for each one."

On February 23, 1978, Nercessian was sitting in the Beverly Wilshire Hotel, Champagne Room, to participate in the NFA Auction V. The estimated price for the Artavasdes drachm was \$1000; however, Nercessian did not think the coin would sell for less than \$3000. When the floor bids exceeded \$3000, all of the competitors of Nercessian refrained from bidding except for Torkom Demirjian — Paul Bedoukian's son-in-law — who was also seller of Armenian coins. In the end Nercessian purchased the Artavasdes II drachm for \$4500; this coin is still preserved in his collection. Literally, thousands of coins, bank notes, medals, and other collector items have passed through Nercessian's hands. Behind each one, there is an interesting numismatic story. This Artavasdes II drachm is noteworthy for leaving a deep psychological impression.

Commemorative Volume in Memory of Fr. Clement Sibilian

Father Clement Sibilian is recognized as the father of Armenian numismatics for his initial scientific classification of Armenian coins. Due to his efforts, Armenian numismatics were introduced to the world. Also because of his untiring efforts, an important collection of Armenian coins was assembled in the Mekhitarist Congregation Museum in Vienna. To pay tribute to Father Sibilian's memory and his pioneering work, Yeghia Nercessian suggested and the executive body of the Society decided to publish a commemorative issue on the centennial of his death, Volume IV (1978) of the *Armenian Numismatic Journal*.

Numerous articles were received from Armenian and foreign numismatists from Yerevan, Venice, Vienna, Paris, London, New York, and the Los Angeles membership of the Society. Dr. Dickran Kouymjian on his own initiative offered his efforts to edit the Sibilian Festschrift. Both of the editors, Kouymjian and Nercessian, spared no effort to publish a volume worthy of the memory of Fr. Clement Sibilian. Dr. Kouymjian was able to secure financial aid from the Alex Manoogian Foundation for the publication expenses of this volume. The commemorative volume was published two years late. It offered twenty-one numismatic articles. Each Armenian article had an English summary, and the English articles had Armenian summaries. The Sibilian Festschrift was greatly appreciated by Armenological and international scholars.

The Founding of the Special Publication Series

During the publication of the Sibilian volume, Yeghia Nercessian realized that a great responsibility rests on the shoulders of the Armenian Numismatic Society. There were numerous works which needed to be edited and published if the Armenian Numismatic Society

was to justify its existence. The foremost of the works had to be the publication of Dr. Paul Z. Bedoukian's essays in one volume. Having this in mind, Nercessian first approached the world renowned Armenian numismatist to receive his approval. To the surprise and pleasure of Society's membership, Bedoukian not only embraced the proposal but also expressed his willingness to underwrite the publishing expenses. This was a big help to the Society, since the treasury was greatly depleted after the Sibilian volume printing.

Selected Numismatic Studies of Dr. Paul Z. Bedoukian was called *Special Publication* No.

1. This voluminous and handsome book was published almost simultaneously along with the Sibilian volume.

The Publication of Armenian Numismatic Bibliography and Literature

During the September 11, 1982 meeting of the Armenian Numismatic Society, Yeghia Nercessian read a paper on Armenian bilingual trams. In 1983 this work was published as *Attribution and Dating of Armenian Bilingual Trams, Special Publication*, No. 2. In this booklet, with specially prepared line drawings, the author explains how to attribute and date the bilingual trams of Hetoum-Kaiqobad and Hetoum-Kaikhosrew. The book is an indispensable guide to date the bilingual Armenian trams and Seljuq dirhams. The Armenian coins studied came from the author's collection. Most of the Seljuq coins came from his numismatist friend Stephen Album's collection.

As mentioned earlier, Nercessian had started collecting a copy from each Armenian numismatic publication for his own library. He prepared and accumulated the bibliography and an abstract for each one of these works. In a single volume, Nercessian lists all Armenian numismatic bibliography through 1980 together with abstracts of their content. The subjects are grouped under twenty-six typological sections. The subject and author indices (53 pages) enable the reader to quickly refer to literature on a particular topic or to search by author. This encyclopedic corpus contains no less than 1349 publications which have been abstracted and translated into English and Armenian. Consequently, scholars, students of Armenian numismatics, collectors, and dealers now have ready access to the abstracts of publications which are scattered in periodicals and books in many countries and in many languages. It took the author ten years and twelve thousand man-hours to complete this treatise. With the decision of the Armenian Numismatic Society and the financial assistance of its membership (whose names are printed therein), *Special Publication*, No. 3, was published in 1984. For the preparation of this labor of love, Nercessian purchased numismatic books and periodicals from various bookstores all over the world. He also received offprints or photocopies from Paul Bedoukian, Khatchadour Mousheghian, Henry Sarkissian, Miasnikian Library, American Numismatic Society (where also he spent a complete week doing research). He also spent three years of Saturdays at the Research Library of the University of California at Los Angeles where he researched numismatic material with the assistance of Armenian Librarian, Gia Ayvazian. Many members of the Armenian Numismatic Society and other numismatist friends were also instrumental in this effort.

The Publication of Bank Notes of Armenia

Yeghia Nercessian has been a collector since his childhood. When his godfather, Yeghia Boyajian, visited Nercessian's home and noticed Nercessian's stamp collection and expressed his admiration for that modest but attractive collection, Nercessian was proud to point out that it was assembled without spending even a single piastre. Young Yeghia was happy with his collection.

When Yeghia Nercessian's finances permitted (after he was released from US Army active duty), he started taking steps to expand his collection. Bank notes relating to Armenia were not left out of his attention. The bank notes of Armenian Republic form a part of Armenian history and, similar to metallic coins, they are monuments recalling the past of the Armenian people.

With the birth of *Armenian Numismatic Journal*, a unique forum was created to present the bank notes of Armenia to the collector. For years Nercessian had written on this subject, distributing to the international, American, and Armenian press. Yeghia Nercessian wanted to write a complete book on Armenian bank notes. Additional bank notes and information would be needed to facilitate such an undertaking, however. He wrote a letter on this subject to the "Committee for Cultural Relations with Armenians Abroad" in Yerevan but would receive no positive response anytime soon.

A numismatist friend, Jack Guevrekian, mailed his entire Armenian bank note collection from New York and placed it under the disposal of Yeghia Nercessian for his study. The Guevrekian bank note collection was comparable to the Nercessian collection in both quantity and quality. This was an opportunity to expand and enrich Nercessian's paper money corpus.

In 1986, when Yeghia Nercessian was involved with the laborious work of classifying these bank notes, he did finally receive an invitation from the "Committee for Cultural Relations with Armenians Abroad" to visit Armenia. A pilgrimage to Armenia was a unique opportunity for Yeghia so that he might tour the State Museum of Armenian History and examine their bank note collection. Like all tourists who visit Armenia, Yeghia and Anahid relished the visits to historical sites, enjoyed the hospitality of the Armenian people, and took joy in taking part in Armenian cultural activities.

In the Museum, with the approval of its management, Nercessian examined the bank notes and photographed many of them, further enriching the content of his corpus. The hospitality and assistance of Armenian numismatists Khatchadour Mousheghian, Henry Sarkissian, Margo Karapetian was indispensable.

After a year of additional work, the first monogram relating to the paper money of Armenia was ready for publication: 222 pages of text and 192 photographic plates. With the approval of the Armenian Numismatic Society and the financial assistance of its membership, this treatise was published as *Special Publication*, No. 6, in 1988. As a point of gratitude, it must be pointed out that, during his return flight from Yerevan to Los Angeles, Yeghia and his wife visited Moscow and Leningrad where the Hermitage museum had a special attraction for him. In the Hermitage he personally met with B. B. Piotrovski and I. G. Dobrovolsky with whom Nercessian had corresponded. The Nercessian couple toured the Museum with a specially assigned tour guide. After returning to California, the Hermitage mailed Yeghia the photographs of rare Armenian Republic bank notes from the collection of the Hermitage Museum, numismatic department. Also, Nercessian examined the bank note collection of the Society membership. The task of photographing all the bank notes was assigned to photographer Edward Cholakian.

Essays in Honor of Dr. Paul Z. Bedoukian

As noted earlier, at various times Paul Bedoukian traveled to the Los Angeles area. Similarly, due to his responsibilities in his engineering profession, Yeghia Nercessian traveled and visited the New York and New Jersey areas. These opportunities were utilized by

both numismatists to get together and discuss various Armenian numismatic issues. For example, it was a great joy for Nercessian during one of his eastern trips when Paul Bedoukian and his wife came and picked him up from his hotel, drove him to their house where he had the pleasure of examining the Bedoukian numismatic and artifact collections. For both numismatists this was a joyous occasion.

Paul Bedoukian was also a generous supporter of the Armenian Numismatic Society. His three bilingual booklets (English and Armenian) were published with his financial help: *Coinage of the Armenian Kingdoms of Sophene and Commagene* (1985), *Armenian Coin Hoards* (1987), *A Hoard of Copper Coins of Tigranes the Great and a Hoard of Artaxiad Coins* (1991).

Paul Bedoukian's research and writings gave Armenian numismatics a new beginning and international recognition. His treatises dedicated to the coinage of Cilician Armenia, Artaxiad dynasty of Armenia, and kingdom of Sophene have been accepted as numismatic reference source books. If Fr. Clement Sibilian is called the father of Armenian numismatics, then Bedoukian is the architect of Armenian numismatics — the task of improving and perfecting the various Armenian numismatic disciplines.

In appreciation of the value of his tireless effort and dedication to Armenian numismatics, Yeghia Nercessian, with the approval of Armenian Numismatic Society, planned to dedicate a Festschrift in *Armenian Numismatic Journal* in honor of Dr. Paul Z. Bedoukian. The Bedoukian volume was published in 1989 with the assistance of international numismatists. This commemorative volume, similar to the Sibilian volume, also had high quality and improved internal and external standards.

Asbed Donabedian in Los Angeles

In 1970, when Nercessian started collecting numismatic literature and studying the coins of the Artaxiad dynasty of Armenia, Prof. Asbed Donabedian was one of the first people Nercessian wished to contact. During that same year, when preparing his Armenian numismatic bibliography, he contacted Asbed Donabedian and a friendship developed between them.

In 1989, Donabedian retired permanently from teaching and migrated to Los Angeles because of civil war in Lebanon. In Los Angeles, Yeghia's and Asbed's friendship was transformed into an extremely close bond, a spiritual relationship, as numismatic brothers. They were in constant communication by telephone and personal visits. When Armenian Numismatic Society meetings took place, Yeghia would drive to Asbed's apartment, pick him up, bring him to the meeting, and then back to his residence late at night. Asbed's huge numismatic collection remained in Lebanon, and so the Armenian numismatist was deprived of the pleasure of studying these coins.

After making all the proper arrangements, one early morning in the 1990s, Yeghia Nercessian pulled his entire numismatic collection out of bank vault and brought it to his home so that he and Asbed can study them together. After examining the coins for six hours, Asbed Donabedian turned to Nercessian and with a tear in his eye said, "This has been my happiest day since I have been in America."

On November 8, 1992, Donabedian suffered a massive heart attack. He passed away on January 23, 1993. At this time, his whole numismatic collection had arrived in London and was ready to journey to Los Angeles.

Subsequent to his death, his family decided that the collection should be auctioned in London. The collection was consigned to Spink and Son Ltd., for sale in a public auction. On March 2, 1994, Asbed Donabedian's 4552 piece collection of Armenian coins as well as Roman and Islamic coins relating to Armenia were sold and scattered to collectors all over the world.

The Publication of Armenian Coins and Their Values

The core of Yeghia Nercessian's collection has been and remains in Armenian coins. Because of his financial obligations, with the profits of books, bank notes, and coins sold in his *Bulletins*, he expanded his collection. After recognizing and attributing Armenian coins, it was natural to him to be aware of their market values. Collectors had need for a reference where Armenian coins were described without sinking into the formalities of a huge corpus. For example, an ordinary collector had no need to study a catalogue of a few thousand trams of Levon I or Hetoum-Zabel in order to attribute his few silver trams. Huge corpora are necessary to study coins in depth and to prepare serious scholarly works. On the other hand, there are elementary subjects essential to a collector (how to grade coins, for example) that should be included in such a book of valuation. After the publication of his bank note monograph in 1989, for the third and last time Yeghia Nercessian undertook the preparation of *Armenian Coins and Their Values*.

In mid 1980s, during his business trips to the New York area, Yeghia Nercessian had the opportunity to examine Jack Guevrekian's bank notes and coins prior to the Bedoukian collection examination. Like Bedoukian and Nercessian, Jack Guevrekian also had a choice and balanced collection.

Although the Nercessian collection was large, it was insufficient for the illustrations in such an all-encompassing work. Without a complete set of coin pictures, the value of such a book would diminish. While alive, Asbed Donabedian had promised to place his huge collection completely under the disposal of Nercessian for his studies. Unfortunately, Donabedian passed away without realizing his own dreams: publishing the books that he had planned to write. Nercessian purchased relatively few coins from the Donabedian collection auction. Very generously, Paul Bedoukian sent a box of coin pictures — duplicates from his books — so that Nercessian would use them.

From the membership of Armenian Numismatic Society, Jack Guevrekian mailed the photographs of his coins so that they may be utilized in the plates of *Armenian Coins and Their Values*. With the same purpose, Levon Saryan, †Mesrop Abgarians, †Nicholas Jamgochian, †Edward Joseph, Charles Hajinian, and many others lent their collections. This unique labor of love also was published with the approval of the Armenian Numismatic Society and with the unsolicited financial assistance of its membership as *Special Publication*, No. 8, in 1995.

With its content, the book satisfies the practical needs of a collector:

- a list of bibliographic sources
- introductory chapters discussing collecting Armenian coins and concepts of rarity and valuation
- a survey of price lists which reviews Armenian coin prices during the past two decades and tabulates prices from nine major fixed price lists and auction catalogues up to the close of 1994
- the catalogue where the coins of Sophene, Artaxiad dynasty of Armenia, Commagene and Cilician Armenia are classified

- counterfeit detection
- coin grading
- rarity
- valuation of Armenian coins in 1995
- forty-eight photographic plates where more than five hundred coins are illustrated

The book was greatly appreciated by the numismatic community. After the publication, dealers selling Armenian coins started referencing this book because of the advantages it offered and the quality of its plates.

Through 1995 the Armenian Numismatic Society has published ten books. Similar to other publishers, their Armeniological books have been selling at a slow rate. *Armenian Coins and Their Values* was the first where the Society recaptured all of its publication expenses during the first year.

A few months after the publication of this book, Jack Guevrekian's Armenian coins were placed for sale under the title of "Araratian Collection." On December 5, 1995, in a public auction, the Classical Numismatic Group of Lancaster, PA, sold the "Araratian Collection" in New York City. The collection was formed during a forty year period in the New York area. The quality and quantity of the coins suggested that the collection as a whole should be purchased and preserved in an Armenian museum. It must be noted with great regret that this collection also, similar to the Donabedian collection, was scattered to the four corners of world to Armenian and non-Armenian collectors. One of these days, Armenians will think about preserving their ancestral heritage as a national treasure for their future generations.

Studies

The founding of *Armenian Numismatic Journal* provided an avenue where all numismatists, Armenian and non-Armenian, could publish their works. But, in fact, the person who took most advantage of this was its founder and editor, Yeghia Nercessian. Since 1975 he wrote about Armenian coins, bank notes, medals, and prepared detailed bibliography of all published Armenian numismatic literature. As a result of this effort, books were published on Armenian numismatic bibliography and bank notes.

Since 1981 he has prepared the second volume of *Armenian Numismatic Bibliography and Literature* which the Society is planning to publish.

There is a huge collection of articles from the *Armenian Numismatic Journal* as well as Armenian and non-Armenian periodicals. A good part of the papers were read to the membership of the Armenian Numismatic Society in their meetings and then published in its *Journal*.

Since the 1970s, in addition to the Armenian Numismatic Society, Yeghia Nercessian has been a member of the following organizations: American Numismatic Society, New York; American Numismatic Association, Colorado Springs, Colorado; Royal Numismatic Society, London; Society for Ancient Numismatics, Los Angeles; International Bank Note Society, Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

The publication of Paul Bedoukian's *Armenian Coin Hoards* inspired Nercessian to publish several studies where he described hoards belonging to Tigranes the Great, Levon I, Levon II, Smpad, Levon III, Oshin, Levon IV. Some of these were published first in English and then in Armenian for Armenian periodicals.

One of the untiring researchers of the Mekhitarist Congregation in Venice was the late Fr. Sahak Djemdjemian. Yeghia Nercessian and Fr. Djemdjemian had had friendly correspondence since the 1970s. Fr. Djemdjemian was not a numismatist but he had the intellectual capability to recognize the historical value of the material that he was researching. When numismatic material was discovered during his research, he composed and sent them for publication in the *Armenian Numismatic Journal*. At the same time he did not miss the numismatic articles that Yeghia Nercessian would publish. In one of his letters addressed to Yeghia Nercessian, Fr. Djemdjemian asks him to write an article for the *Bazmavep* Armenian language periodical, published by the Mekhitarist Congregation in Venice. Since that day Yeghia Nercessian has mailed the editor of *Bazmavep* a long list of Armenian numismatic articles in the Armenian language.

Nercessian has numerous articles where he describes

- unpublished coins
- coins on which peculiarities escaped the attention of other numismatists
- chemical analysis of Armenian coins (made possible by modern scientific methods of investigation)
- numerous other timely reports pertaining to Armenian numismatics

These articles with their scientific discussion form the base and advancement of numismatic knowledge.

The Publication of *Armenian Numismatic Studies*

As the Armenian Numismatic Society had the foresight to publish the articles of Paul Z. Bedoukian (1981 and 2003), they also decided to publish Nercessian's essays in one volume for the benefit of numismatists and Armenologists. In this volume of 678 pages, his 55 research papers scattered in various periodicals, through the year 2000, are included. The essays covered the Artaxiad dynasty of Armenia, coinage of Cilician Armenia, bank notes of the first Republic of Armenia and the surrounding years (1918-1929), general numismatics, modern Armenian medals, and miscellaneous material including counterfeits. The book is profusely illustrated in the text and includes 96 photographic plates. The essays are arranged in such an order that they give a thematic dimension to the book. Additionally the extensive bibliography and the index provide a valuable tool to the researcher. As a whole, the book, provides a useful and interesting background on the numismatic history of Armenia. *Armenian Numismatic Studies* represents a lifetime work in the field of numismatics.

Since the publication of this volume, in addition to the second volume of bibliography noted above, Nercessian has published numerous other essays in many periodicals.

The Publication of *Silver Coinage of the Artaxiad Dynasty of Armenia*

In November 1999 Nercessian received a letter from Mr. Arthur Houghton, the outgoing president of the American Numismatic Society, asking if he would be interested in doing a die study of tetradrachms and drachms of Tigranes II. Naturally, Nercessian's reply was yes.

Nercessian spent all of the year 2000 collecting material and researching published numismatic works which included mention and photograph of the silver coins of Tigranes II.

For the past thirty years Nercessian had never worked on any article which has been this lengthy and time absorbing. The time allocated for researching numismatic books, sale, and

auctions catalogues in addition to photographing and photocopying far exceeded his expectations. When the "Silver Coins of Tigranes II of Armenia" was published in *Armenian Numismatic Journal* in December 2000, some curators, collectors, and friends suggested this work should have been published as a monograph rather than an article.

Thereafter, Nercessian's die study works on silver coins of Artavasdes II, Artaxias II, Tigranes III, and Artavasdes IV of Armenia were prepared and published in *Armenian Numismatic Journal* (March and December 2003). Nercessian updated these three papers to incorporate the information of more recent years and integrated them into one die study book, *Silver Coinage of the Artaxiad Dynasty of Armenia*.

In the history of Armenian numismatic literature, no book has been offered to the numismatic community with such quality of publication and illustrations in the photographic plates. In the words of one reviewer, the quality of publication far exceeded all other Armenian numismatic monographs published during the past one hundred fifty years. Further, it is possible to consider the *Silver Coinage of the Artaxiad Dynasty of Armenia*, as the crowning achievement of Nercessian's publications (*Armenian Numismatic Journal*, December 2006).

The Publication of *Armenian Coin Auctions*

As long as Nercessian has been involved with Armenian coins, he had an affinity to their marketing and especially to their auctions. He made a continuous effort to keep the membership of the Armenian Numismatic Society informed about their market valuation. Having this in mind, all major Armenian coin auctions were reviewed and presented to the membership and also for posterity.

During the last two decades of the twentieth century, numerous major Armenian coin collections were auctioned to the international numismatic community. Some of these collections had such rarities that a prospective collector would have but this single chance in his lifetime to purchase. Many of the auction reviews Nercessian penned were quite educational.

In 2006, the Armenian Numismatic Society published the *Armenian Coin Auctions* to keep the membership informed about the auctions of Armenian coins and their relocations out of historic Armenian lands to Europe and America. It is tragic that most of these unique coins are dispersed to many collectors around the world, inaccessible to numismatists and beyond the grasp of research.

And so here is the summarized biography and forty year numismatic activity of Yeghia Nercessian. The publication of this biography might encourage new collectors to study numismatics in depth and to prepare future generations to follow through on the work of Sibilian, Bedoukian, and Nercessian.

Terenik Nercessian
Whittier, California

SILVER COINAGE OF THE ARTAXIAD DYNASTY OF ARMENIA, by Y. T. Nercessian. Armenian Numismatic Society, *Special Publication* No. 11, Los Angeles, 2006. English with Armenian summary, ix, 212 p, 96 pls.

The author, in his latest contribution to Armenian numismatics, reveals what must have been the fruit of painstaking research and patient cataloguing. Nercessian begins this volume with a concise historical background of the Artaxiads of Armenia, a survey of previous publications on this topic, and relevant reported hoards.

The monumental compilation of the coins represents as complete a picture as could be asked for, especially with regard to the extensive series of tetradrachms of King Tigranes II, which clearly is most dear to the author. This part of the catalogue represents the result of years of meticulous cataloguing of specimens appearing in various publications, fixed-price and auction sales, museum collections around the world, as well as the many private collections to which the author had access through his involvement with the Armenian Numismatic Society. To that end, he also solicited submissions of specimens by that society's membership to augment his data.

The author's conclusions are sound, and represent the current state of generally accepted knowledge and scholarship regarding the coinage of the Artaxiads, and especially the mints active during the reign of Tigranes II.

The catalogue includes silver coins of the following kings of the Artaxiads of Armenia, representing all of those known to have issued silver coinage to-date: Tigranes II (95-56 B.C.), Artavasdes II 56-34 B.C.), Artaxias II (34-20 B.C.), Tigranes III (20-8 B.C.), Artavasdes IV (A.D. 4-6, Artaxias III (A.D. 18-34).

Nercessian's analysis covers, in clear sections, the portrait art, tiara styles, monograms, mints, metrology, estimations of numbers of original dies, chronology, and counterfeits. However, the most substantive part of the volume is the die study, including the grouping of dies according to characteristics of the portrait and other stylistic features, as well as the reverse monograms. His metrological analysis relates diameters and weights to the die types (groups), resulting in interesting statistical data for each group.

Regarding the silver coins of Tigranes II, when dated (for the Artaxata and Damascus mint coins), the author relates them to the king's regnal years and relevant historical facts.

Finally, he also includes a list of sale and auction catalogue publishers dealing in ancient Armenian coins, an extensive bibliography, and an index.

This volume clearly represents a labor of love for the author, and is the culmination of his many years of studying of the subject. It is only to be hoped that he will follow it with a similar treatment of the bronze coinage of the Artaxiads, considering the amount of new material unearthed and documented since Paul Bedoukian's corpus.

Jirair CHRISTIANIAN

TWO COUNTERFEIT ARMENIAN TRAMS FROM EBAY AND OTHER PITFALLS OF THE INTERNET

In just a few years, internet auctions have become a very popular way to buy and sell numismatic collectibles. The largest and busiest site is www.eBay.com, where offerings run the gamut from inexpensive new issues to one-of-a-kind rarities. An extremely varied inventory of coins and paper currency is available from thousands of sellers around the world. Access to items from many countries can broaden one's horizons, since foreign dealers will often offer material not readily available in the USA.

I regularly utilize the internet to expand my collection. Using a few key words, I can search offerings quickly without having to sort through a large mass of unrelated material. Most listings include illustrations in full color making it possible to independently assess the attribution, authenticity, and preservation of an item. Payments can be completed very easily via Paypal or credit card. Unlike traditional auctions successful eBay bidders are not charged a buyer's fee. These auctions are also a good venue for sellers, since even coins with only nominal value have the chance to sell, and often bring multiples of their true value. Thus there is the potential to extract full value from a collection.

Although the great majority of internet sellers are small operators, I have found most to be remarkably competent, fair, courteous, and honest. Overall, they describe merchandise to the best of their ability, set a reasonable starting price, and ship quickly and safely. I have been involved in over a thousand transactions so far (with sellers in nearly every state and about twenty foreign countries) and over 98% of these have proven very satisfactory. I have occasionally located items of great rarity and enduring fascination that might never have surfaced through traditional channels. Sometimes I have found rare or even unique items masquerading as common varieties. Best of all, I have made the acquaintance of fellow collectors from around the world with similar interests and shared their knowledge and expertise.

Nevertheless, the purpose of this article is to point out that eBay auctions are essentially unregulated and are therefore fraught with pitfalls for the unwary. With traditional sale venues, the dealer's identity, reputation, and credentials are known in advance, and items are typically carefully described, graded, and authenticated by experts using consistent terminology. On the internet, however, there may be no information about the seller's competency and reputation, no guarantee of authenticity, and no refund in case of dissatisfaction. The buyer has no protection and almost no recourse if the transaction goes sour. All of this means that collectors need to be VERY CAUTIOUS when using eBay and similar sites.

Unfortunately, a few sellers are either ignorant or intentionally deceptive. Some have no particular numismatic expertise and are not familiar with numismatic terminology. They may describe medals or tokens as "coins," or use meaningless terms such as "real good" or "very nice" to describe condition. Some have no idea what they are selling, depending solely on a picture without describing a lot in any detail. Weights and measurements may be inaccurate or misleading.¹ Certain sellers regularly list common coins at inflated starting prices in the hope that someone who doesn't know any better will go for the bait. Some do not appreciate or care about the essential distinction between genuine and counterfeit items. Under such circumstances, coins

¹ To be meaningful, coin weights should be reported to at least the nearest hundredth of a gram (two decimal places). A weight expressed to the nearest whole gram is virtually meaningless. A Tigranes tetradrachm listed as weighing 15 grams (thus falling in the possibly genuine range) was later found to weigh 17.02 grams, indicating that it was significantly overweight. See L. A. Saryan, "Counterfeit Ancient Armenian Coins in Internet Auctions," *The Celator*, Volume 21, no. 1 (January 2007), pp. 24, 26-27, 32.

may be misattributed, overgraded, overpriced, or outright forgeries. There are even a very few sellers who are simply thieves; they refuse to deliver purchased and paid items, stiffing buyers for hundreds or even thousands of dollars. While such cases are rare, many complaints are required before such rogues are identified and barred from using eBay.

These pitfalls seem to be magnified in specialized fields such as Armenian numismatics. Even seasoned dealers may lack experience or detailed knowledge about Armenian coins. I have seen hundreds of coins misattributed as to country, ruler, date, type, and/or denomination. Coins and medals of Armenia may be given to other countries, or items from elsewhere incorrectly described as Armenian. In one case, a new seller misidentified a tetradrachm of Tigranes of Armenia, assigning it to an unrelated kingdom. He later admitted that he was listing the coin for a friend and had no clue what he was doing.² In another case, I purchased a coin described as a silver double tram of Levon I that actually was a tiny post-Roupenian copper.

Buyers need to be conscious about the pricing and grading of coins. The condition of an item, including flaws, can often be visualized if a clear photograph or scan is provided. I have seen coins that were egregiously overgraded, for example, an ordinary Levon I silver tram in average (F-VF) condition that was graded AU-55.³ I have also seen relatively common Armenian coins worth maybe \$15 retail listed at starting prices of \$100 or more.

There are even more serious traps for the unwary. About two to three years ago an eBay seller in California listed a silver liturgical chalice that had been improperly removed from the treasury of the St. James Armenian Monastery in Jerusalem. A photograph and a news article describing the affair (with the names of involved persons blanked out) were used in the listing. The seller was clearly aware of the historical significance and commercial value of the chalice, since the minimum asking bid was set at \$1.8 million! When the item did not attract any interest at this level, the opening price was lowered to \$1.7 million. I appealed to eBay to remove the stolen item from its site, and to bar the seller from further access. I was disappointed, however, to note that eBay allowed the auction to proceed and took no apparent action against the seller.⁴

Counterfeits pose a major concern. Although eBay has strict rules prohibiting the sale of counterfeits, in practice this prohibition is routinely ignored. When listing, sellers are required to affirm that numismatic items are genuine. Nevertheless, buyers should not accept a claim of authenticity without verifying it independently to their satisfaction. Although this can be difficult since the actual item is not available for examination, specialized knowledge combined with a clear photograph can be very helpful. Armenian coins described as reproductions are almost never stamped COPY in compliance with the Hobby Protection Act of 1973, so it is best to avoid these as well.⁵

Especially in the past two years, proliferation of counterfeit ancient and medieval Armenian coins on eBay and other sites has become a serious problem.⁶ Fakes (represented as genuine)

² Predictably, the coin turned out to be a counterfeit. See Saryan, *op.cit.*, p. 26.

³ On the other hand, I can also recall seeing undergraded coins (an XF or better Levon tram described as "fine"), probably because the seller was not familiar with numismatic terminology.

⁴ To the best of my knowledge, no bids were placed on the chalice and it did not sell. Buyers who can afford the asking price will not commit a sum this large sight unseen. By not canceling the auction, of course, eBay collected its usual fee for listing.

⁵ I have yet to see even one Armenian item on eBay stamped COPY in compliance with this act.

⁶ Counterfeit Levon I double trams have appeared recently on the market, but not yet on eBay as far as I am aware. See L. A. Saryan, "Market hit with counterfeit Armenian coins," *World Coin News*, Vol. 34, No. 2 (February 2007), pp. 34, 36.

often sell for prices approximating those of authentic examples.⁷ Some of these fakes are of very recent vintage and others have been in the marketplace for decades.⁸ In the interest of preventing the dissemination of false items, two recent examples of counterfeit Levon I trams that appeared recently on eBay are described below, and illustrated in clear enlargements:



Fig. 1. Levon I forgery (eBay Lot 230044033897)

eBay Lot 230044033897. This forgery was offered by an eBay seller from Spain in early November 2006 (Fig. 1). It was described as a "monnaie argent" (silver coin) of Leon I of Armenia (1196-1219), 1.7 g, actual diameter 23.63 mm. This is an example of the well-known fake described by Bedoukian⁹ in 1962 (no. 775) as being the recent product of a jeweler in Antakya, Turkey. Upon my notification, the dealer demonstrated his commitment to ethical practice by immediately withdrawing the lot from sale. I was later able to obtain the item for illustration and description here. Note that this relatively well-preserved example has all features clear and easy to discern.¹⁰ It is extremely thin and actually weighs only 1.65 grams, more than 40 % underweight compared to a genuine tram. The principal diagnostic features of this fake are: (1) king's face on obverse is very poorly executed with bulbous pear-shaped nose ("goon face"), (2) obverse letter Φ is incorrectly executed and letter Θ is inverted resembling a cursive E, (3) reverse lions resemble horses with long slender necks, (4) reverse legend uses a Greek letter Ω (omega), never seen on genuine coins, and (5) a dash appears in the legend immediately to right of the omega.

eBay Lot 260086459283. This lot (Fig. 2) was offered on eBay by a seller in East Rockaway, New York, in February of 2007.¹¹ It was described as a silver coin of Armenia, King Levon I, 1198-1219 AD, 1.87 grams, 21.57 mm in diameter. I wrote to this seller, pointing out

⁷ The opposite is also possible! I recently purchased a silver tram of Levon I on eBay described as a reproduction of the 19th century, which appears to be fully genuine!

⁸ A few years ago I got into an extended discussion with a non-Armenian who was selling a group of counterfeit trams (Bedoukian 775) on eBay. He claimed that they must be genuine since he had purchased them in Beirut many years earlier. He remained unconvinced even after I enumerated the problems with the coins and cited authoritative references to back up my statements.

⁹ Paul Z. Bedoukian, *Coinage of Cilician Armenia* (New York, 1962), pp.101-102, 226.

¹⁰ This includes the glaring errors in the obverse and reverse legends.

¹¹ Most listings for this firm consisted of modern antiques and non-numismatic books, suggesting a lack of expertise in numismatics. The sale listing stated that the sellers are "not coin experts" and this is sufficient reason to be skeptical of the item.

that the illustrated piece was a known counterfeit, but received no reply. The item was not withdrawn, but sold to a bidder for \$66. At a reported 1.87 grams, this fake is also significantly underweight (about 35%) compared to authentic trams of Levon I. It has also been published previously¹² but is not as widely known. The principle diagnostics are: (1) obverse and reverse lettering lacks the fine quality of workmanship and accuracy seen on genuine trams, and several letters are unnaturally slanted to the left, (2) king's name is spelled with Armenian letter Օ rather than Ռ, (3) the king's portrait is poorly executed, and (4) the lions' necks on the reverse are slender and unnatural. The tool used to engrave the die or mold for this forgery did not lend itself to a refined finished product.



Fig. 2. Levon I forgery (EBay Lot 260086459283)

Collectors who expect eBay or similar web sites to protect them from counterfeits or other nefarious transactions are in for a rude awakening. The auction host is mostly interested in collecting its commissions and, at best, will take action only if it receives an enormous number of complaints. EBay received several protests about the stolen chalice, but as far as I am aware they took no action to stop the sale or confiscate the item.

Despite these problems, the internet offers collectors an exciting means of expanding a collection. To avoid disappointment, buyers should be very familiar with their specialty (including prevailing prices) and have reference works with information about known counterfeits handy. Collectors can protect themselves by (1) studying the listing and photographs very carefully, (2) asking questions regarding authenticity, provenance, satisfaction guarantee, return policy, grading, weight, etc., (3) checking the dealer's background, credentials, and feedback comments, (4) informing the seller and eBay of an item's questionable status, (5) communicating with fellow collectors about questionable listings, (6) refusing to purchase items offered by unknown or unscrupulous sellers, and (7) using feedback as a means of letting others know about your experience. Finally, be careful about how much money you bid on any given item. Don't risk more money than an item is worth, or more than you can afford to lose.

The bottom line: despite the pitfalls, with a modicum of caution shopping for Armenian coins and collectibles on the internet can be a rewarding and enriching experience.

By L. A. SARYAN, Ph.D.

¹² Y. T. Nercessian, *Armenian Coins and Their Values* (Los Angeles, 1995), pp. 184-185, counterfeit 12.

A CURIOUS FANTASY COIN OF HETOUM AND ZABEL

L. A. SARYAN, Ph. D. and Levon VRTANESYAN

Recently, the authors became aware of a curious copper forgery, or more appropriately, fantasy¹ coin purporting to depict Hetoum (1226-1270) and Zabel, rulers of Cilician Armenia. The Armenian legend mentions Hetoum and Zabel and the coin bears a superficial resemblance to the well-known silver trams depicting the two rulers. A description follows below:



Fig. 1. Hetoum- and Zabel fantasy coin

Obverse: King Hetoum standing left, Queen Zabel standing right, each wearing royal vestments and holding a central long cross mounted on a pedestal with three steps. Hetoum is holding a fleur-de-lis in his right hand and Zabel is holding a bowl in her left hand. An Armenian legend in the field to the left of the king reads ՀԵՐՈՄ, and a legend to the far right reads ՁԱՊԵԼ. The king's name is spelled incorrectly and the letter Պ is reversed. The design and legends are enclosed within a single circle of pellets.

Reverse: Figure of Jesus Christ, with a halo about His head, wearing a robe and seated on a royal throne. The outline of a cross is enclosed within the halo. Although the reverse image is not very clear, an inscription in the left field appears to read ՅԱ and in the right field ՔԱ each with wavy lines above (~~~~), indicating the Armenian abbreviation for Jesus Christ. The design and inscription are enclosed within a single circle of pellets.

Fabric: Copper, 4.42 grams, diameter about 25 mm (1 inch), pierced with a hole near King Hetoum's head. Charles Ford collection.

Although the two standing figures are reminiscent of Hetoum-Zabel silver trams, this copper does not otherwise resemble any known coins of Cilician Armenia. The obverse legends consist

¹ A fantasy is an unofficial to create a new coin type that does not exist.

of letters scattered in the fields,² in contrast to royal coins which typically have clockwise inscriptions enclosed within a band along the edge. Rather, this coin more closely resembles a bronze follis of Emperor Constantine X Ducas (1059-1067) of Byzantium with Eudocia,³ copying the design of Sear 1853 except that Armenian legends replace the Greek ones. Coins bearing the images of Hetoum and Zabel could not have been issued prior to 1226 A.D., more than 150 years after the putative model was struck.

The owner, Mr. Charles Ford, who generously allowed this example to be published, said that he purchased it around 1996. It was part of a lot of about 150 mixed low-grade ancient and medieval coins obtained from a friend in Adana, Turkey. Ford mentioned that he had been trying unsuccessfully to identify the coin since he obtained it.

The crude style, incorrectly spelled obverse legends, and more than 150-year separation between the reigns of Constantine X and Hetoum I leave little doubt that this copper is a relatively recent fabrication based on a much earlier Byzantine model. The presence of a hole and significant surface wear suggest that it may have been made as early as the nineteenth century and used in jewelry.⁴

ARMENIAN NUMISMATIC LITERATURE

14 LEWIS, Dan. Armenian Art and Animals, by Dan Lewis. *Numismatist*, Vol. 120 (May 2007), No. 5, p. 75, illus.

As a part of the international "Wild World of Caucasus" numismatic series, Armenia has issued two new 100 dram silver commemorative coins depicting wildlife, one depicting a bear (*Ursus arctos syriacus*) and the other depicting a hedgehog (*Erinaceus [Hemiechinus] auritus*), each 38.61 mm, 28.28 g., 0.925 fine silver, 3000 examples. Also just released as a part of the "Painters of the World," series is a rectangular 100 dram crown honoring Russian Armenian painter Hovhannes Aivazovsky, which is 28x40 mm, 0.925 fine silver. The author concludes that, although Armenia is "a newcomer to the numismatic scene, this landlocked nation is making its mark with creative, high-quality coinage."

YTN

Իբրև մէկ մասը միջազգային «Կովկասեան վայրի անասուններ» դրամադիտական համակարգին, Հայաստան թողարկած է երկու կտոր 100 դրամեց արծաթեայ յուշադրամներ, որոնք կը ներկայացնեն վայրի անասուններ. ընծայուածներէն մէկը արջ մըն է (Անդրկովկասեան գորշ արջ) իսկ միւսը՝ ողնի մը (Աշխականի ողնի), իւրաքանչիւրը 38.61 դրամ, 28.28 մմ, 0.925 զուտ արծաթ, 3000 օրինակ: Նաև նոր թողարկուած, «Աշխարհի նկարիչներ» միջազգային յայտադրին ներքևն է Յովհաննէս Այվազովսկիին նուիրուած քառանկիւն 100 դրամեց արծաթեայ յուշադրամը, որ է 28x40 մմ, 0.925 զուտ արծաթ: Հեղինակը կ'եզրակացնէ, թէ Հայաստան «իբրև նորեկ մը դրամադիտութեան անդամանին, ցամաքով շրջապատուած այս երկիրը կը գետեղէ իր դրոշմը արտադրելով բարձրորակ դրամներ»:

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² There is a precedent for this in Cilician Armenian art, but not in the coinage. The famous reliquary of the Monastery of Skevra, created in Cilicia in 1293, shows medallion portraits of various saints enclosed in single circles with captions in the nearby fields. Alvida Mirzoyan, *Le Reliquaire de Skevra* (New York: Armenian Prelacy, 1993), see unnumbered figural illustrations.

³ Hugh Goodacre, *A Handbook of the Coinage of The Byzantine Empire* (London: Spink, 1967), p. 247, no. 8; David Sear, *Byzantine Coins and Their Values* (London: Seaby, 1987), no. 1853. See also <http://www.wildwinds.com/coins/sb/sb1853.html>

⁴ It is possible that this piece was originally fashioned as a religious medal. However, we have no precedent for the depiction of King Hetoum and Queen Zabel in the design of such medals.



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LETTER ADDRESSED TO THE PRINCIPALS,
U.S. ARMENIAN SECONDARY SCHOOLS

SOCIETY WANTS TO DONATE BOOKS TO SCHOOLS

One of the main objectives of the Armenian Numismatic Society has been the promotion and encouragement of the science of Armenian numismatics.

To spread the knowledge of Armenian numismatics, for the past few decades, the Society has been shipping numismatic books to Armenia to be distributed to Armenian schools of higher education.

Armenian day-schools in the United States are subsidized by donations from parents, benefactors, and members of the Armenian community living within the immediate vicinity of the school. Tuition fees cover only a fraction of the total expenses. Tight budget limits the financial allocations for Armenological books; numismatic books are a luxury which is out of the question.

Recently, the executive board of the Society decided to donate Armenian numismatic books to Armenian High Schools in the United States. The thought behind this bold action is very simple, as the American proverb says, "It is better to light a candle than curse the darkness."

In the past a few schools in the Los Angeles area have received our publications from the Society or various other sources. In order to avoid the duplication of the same title, we request that the librarian of each school, examine our publication list (see the enclosure publication list, or visit our website [http:// www.ArmNumSoc.org/](http://www.ArmNumSoc.org/)), compare with their library holdings, and inform the Society secretary about the books that the school would like to receive for their library.

The Armenian Numismatic Society secretary may be contacted at 8511 Beverly Park Place, Pico Rivera, CA 90660-1920 or by e-mail at ArmNumSoc@aol.com.

Y. T. Nercessian,
Secretary

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LETTERS AND E-MAILS TO THE EDITOR

I just ran across a catalog from a German (Munz Zentrum Auktion 61, 18 March 1987) auction house with an Armenian coin collection. I don't recall having seen you refer to this collection in your publications, and thought I'd bring it to your attention.

They call it Sammlung Koenigreich Armenien (Collection of the Armenian Kingdom) (previous owner unnamed), and it consists of 96 lots. While it is mostly represented by Cilician coins, it also contains 4 AEs of Tigranes II, an AE "diobol"/sestertius of Trajan minted in Greater Armenia (which is currently in my collection), and 1 Post-Roupenian AE (which may in fact be a Takvorin of Gosdantin III or IV, judging from the image).

The greatest rarities of the sale were a single-lion coronation tram of Levon I and a tram of Gosdantin I.

I could have missed this in your references to other auctions. If you did, in fact, not have a copy of it, I'd be happy to send you photocopies of the appropriate pages.

Jirair Chrisrianian

Editor's Note: I conducted research in Joel Malter's legendary library. For those who don't know, only the sale and auction catalogues were housed in a four car garage, book shelves around three sides up to the roof and in the middle. This shows that no one is perfect and we are all human beings. I missed it in spite of the very extensive help I had from many different sources and librarian. As they say in the U.S. Army, "No excuse." Please send me a photo copy of it, including the text, plates, and the title page of the catalogue where the bibliographic information is printed. And, of course, my bill to cover the photocopying and shipping expenses. YTN

Thank you so much for the visit, I greatly enjoyed it. I would like to email you about 2 recent numismatic works, as I am not sure you have heard of it yet.

Omer Diler's work on the Ilkhanid dynasty, including coins in Historic Armenia and Armenian Issues of Abakha are covered. It is in Both Turkish and English. A friend send me a scan of the page on Abakha from the Turkish version. I am attaching it.

Also, a link to the cover and page: <http://www.coincoin.com/bDilerIlkhV.jpg> and

<http://www.coincoin.com/bDilerIlkhS.jpg>

And seller info:

Ilkhans: Coinage of the Persian Mongols The new definitive work, completed after the author's death in an English-language edition of 300 copies (Turkish version also exists); Type catalog by ruler and mint, with all types drawing-illustrated for clarity, plus 12 color plates; Mint list with locations; all known dates listed. 655p+12cpl, 8.75x12.25", sc, 2006

Also, a link on the Shaddadid book:

<http://www.zeno.ru/showphoto.php?photo=45759&limit=recent>

Levon Vrtanesyan

Another publication that might be of interest to you is a description of a bilingual seal from armenia: <http://www.zeno.ru/showphoto.php?photo=35071>. Here is a pic and the bibliography.

Levon Vrtanesyan

DONATIONS

(Period ending 30 September 2006)

Hajinian, Chuck.....	\$100	Setian, Charles.....	\$065
Rockwell, Thomas P.....	\$015	Schott, Donald F.....	\$015

REGARDING CIVIC BRONZES STRUCK IN ARMENIA IN AD 1-4

Plate 2

Ruben VARDANYAN

Recently, * M. Amandry, in reviewing the civic coinage of Artaxata, attributed to that city two new types of coins.¹ Without reviewing the history of the study of the civic coinage of Artaxata,² it is sufficient to summarize that until recently we knew of only two denominations represented by the following three types³:

Aa. Medium module.

Obv.: Tyche's head, turreted, right, each turret surmounted by two pellets, her hair in a bun above her neck, represented by a curve, under which are hanging two wavy locks, one of which wraps around her neck and has a bead on it. The upper part of her dress is visible, held by a round pin. Pellet border.

Rev.: ΑΡΤΑΞΙΣΑΤΩΝ ΜΗΤΡΟΠΟΛΕΩΣ, Nike flying left, crowning the name of the city with a wreath in her right hand holding a palm branch in her left hand. In left field, I; in right field, ΖΞ. Pellet border.

1. 5.40 g, 19.1 mm, 12:00, History Museum of Armenia (hereafter HMA) Inv. No. 19992/77.
2. 5.15 g, 20 mm, 11:00, HMA Inv. No. 8926.
3. 4.35 g, 19.5 mm, 12:00, HMA Inv. No. 5374.⁴

Specimens no. 1, 2 and 3 are struck from the same obverse die, while specimens 2 and 3 are also struck from the same reverse die.

* Originally published in *Handes Amsorya* (2003), Vol. CXVII, pp. 143-163 (in Armenian). Translated by Jirair Christianian.

Translator's note: Parentheses represent original author's notes, while square brackets represent translator's notes. Whenever referencing Greek or Latin sources, I have tried to refer to existing English translations rather than re-translating from the Armenian paper. A word of caution regarding the cataloging system: while the author states that he keeps the same numbering system as Amandry in order to make the concordances simpler (see footnote 3), he, in fact, substitutes a lower-case letter for Amandry's subtype numerals, such that the author uses Aa, Ba, Bb, Ca and Cb for Amandry's A.1, B.1, B.2, C.1 and C.2, respectively. He deviates slightly in the portion of the text concerning group B, where he does use Amandry's nomenclature of B.1 and B.2, while he uses Ba and Bb in the catalog and on the plates for the same coin issues. I have opted to use the author's general scheme of capital and lower-case letters, as it can easily be converted to Amandry's system by readers.

¹ M. Amandry, "Du monnayage d'Artaxisata et des soi-disant monnaies d'Aegospotami," *Bulletin de la Société Française de Numismatique*, No. 9 (Nov. 2002), pp. 173-177.

² See especially: E. Babelon, "Artaxisata," *Compte-rendus des séances de l'Académie des Inscriptions et Belles-Lettres* (1911), pp. 363-374; M.-L. Chaumont, "A propos d'une ère d'Artaxata, capitale de la Grande Arménie," *Revue des Etudes Arméniennes*, No. 18 (1984), pp. 394-409; P. Bedoukian, *Roman Coins and Medals Relating to Armenia* (Vienna, 1971), pp. 191-194 (in Armenian); Kh. A. Mousheghian, *Monetary Circulation in Armenia (from the 5th C. BC to the 14th C. AD)* (Yerevan, 1983), pp. 108-109 (in Armenian, with Russian and English summaries); R. Vardanyan, "On the Dating of Two Groups of Armenian Coins of the Hellenistic Era," *Patma-Banasirakan Handes*, No. 2 (1987), pp. 195-207; A. Mousheghian and G. Depeyrot, *Hellenistic and Roman Armenian Coinage (1st C. BC – 1st C. AD)* (Wetteren, 1999) [=Moneta 15], pp. 45-46, 61-62, 184.

³ To simplify the concordances with M. Amandry's numbering of the series and issues, the author has maintained the same system.

⁴ Another specimen of this type has been reported in Classical Numismatic Group (CNG) *Auction 36* [actually, 51], Sept. 15, 1999, lot 769, 5.77g, 17 mm.

Ab. Small module.

Obv.: Same.

Rev.: ΑΡΤΑΞΙΣΑΤΩΝ, head of wheat, in left field, Ι(?). Pellet border.⁵


Ca. Large module.

Obv.: Same.

Rev.: Same [actually: ΑΡΤΑΞΙΣΑΤΩΝ ΜΗΤΡΟΠΟΛΕΩΣ], but in left field, ΙΒ; in right field, ΘΞ over  monogram.⁶ [Pellet border.]


Cb. Medium module.

Obv.: Same.

Rev.: ΑΡΤΑΞΙΣΑΤΩΝ ΜΗΤΡΟΠΟΛΕΩΣ, head of wheat, in left field, ΙΒ; in right field, ΘΞ over  monogram. Pellet border.⁷

The letters in the right field, according to all those who have studied these coins, are accepted as representing years of issue (ΖΞ = 67 and ΘΞ = 69). In 1987, in a paper by this author, it was proposed that the starting point for these dates was 66 BC, the year of the treaty sealed between Tigranes II and Pompey in Artaxata.⁸ Using that dating principle, these issues of Artaxata are dated AD 1/2 and AD 3/4.⁹

On the other hand, the interpretations regarding the letters in the left field differ. However, most of the authors believe them to also represent years (Ι = 10 and ΙΒ = 12). This author believes that, in interpreting these years, it is plausible to accept the theory of an era of the city of Artaxata, according to which, Tigranes IV, who became king of Armenia in 9/8 BC, apparently in the same year conferred the title of "Metropolis" ("Mother City") on the city of Artaxata, which would have given its inhabitants reason to begin a new calendar era.¹⁰

In 1999, Amandry's attention was caught by a coin, in M. Galleazzi's collection, the obverse of which portrays the head of Tyche, and whose representation and style exceedingly resemble those of the Tyche on the obverse of the coins of Artaxata (Ba). This coin, with the letters ΑΙ in the left field of its reverse and the monogram  in its right field, is linked in turn to yet another issue, which portrays on its obverse Nike's bust facing right (Bb).¹¹ This set of linkages allowed Amandry to assign these two issues to Armenia, attributing them to the mint of Artaxata. Getting familiarized with that article, a copy of which was mailed to him by Amandry, this author imme-

⁵ The only known specimen representing this type, of which the only metrological data available to the author are the diameter of 17 mm and the Obv-Rev relationship of 1:00, was discovered in Artaxata. The author thanks A. Arshakian for the information regarding the coin and for providing its images.

⁶ The unique specimen of this type is kept at the Bibliothèque nationale de France [BnF], No. M7981, 14.62 g, 25 mm, 12:00; Amandry, *op. cit.*, p. 175-176, C, 1.1 (see illustration Ca).

⁷ Two specimens are known: one previously belonging to the von Renner collection, 7.45 g (Amandry, *op. cit.*, p. 177), the other in CNG 51 (1999), lot 770, 7.09 g, 22 mm (see illustration Cb).

⁸ R. Vardanyan, *op. cit.*, pp. 201-207.

⁹ Regarding the use of the Pompeian era at the Artaxata mint, see also Mousheghian and Depeyrot, *op. cit.*, pp. 45-46, 61-62, 184. Their calculation, however, is incorrect, as they consequently date these issues to the years 1 BC and AD 2 (p. 184).

¹⁰ R. Vardanyan, "A Dated Copper Coin of Artaxias II: Evidence on the Use of the Pompeian Era in Artaxata," *Armenian Numismatic Journal*, Vol. XXVII (2001), p. 92, note 20, reprinted from R. Vardanyan, "The Dated Copper Coin of Artaxias II: Another Evidence of the Use of the Pompeian Era in Artaxata," *Handes Amsorya* (2000), p. 130, note 19 (in Armenian).


¹¹ This coin had previously been attributed, with reservations, to the city of Aegospotami, in Thrace. Cf., Amandry, *op. cit.*, p. 174.

diately remembered a group of coins acquired the previous year by the History Museum of Armenia (HMA), which included three specimens of the type with Nike's bust on the obverse (Bb) and a poorly preserved specimen of the Ba issue. The interesting fact is that those coins were discovered within the boundaries or immediate surroundings of ancient Artaxata.¹² Aside from these coins, the HMA collection includes a superb specimen of Amandry's Ba issue, which was previously part of the numismatic collection of the Lazarian Institute of Eastern Languages [Moscow, Russia]. No information is known regarding the discovery of this coin.

Description of the Coins

Ba. Large module.

Obv.: Tyche's head, turreted, right, a braid of hair on her neck shown in a curl, under which hang two wavy strands. She wears a necklace and the top of her dress is held by a round pin. Pellet border.

Rev.: Laurel wreath bound with a ribbon and two ribbon-ends hanging in field. In left field, AI; in right field,  monogram.

5. 14.98 g, 23.7 mm, 7:00, HMA5470.



6. 12.90 g, 23.5 mm, 12:00, A. Aylvazian coll.¹³

7. 8.95 g, 24.4 mm, 6:00, HMA19992/142.¹⁴

Specimens no. 5 and 7 are struck from the same obverse die.

Bb. Medium module.

Obv.: Nike's bust right, the braid of hair next to her temple (braided together with the hair coming from the other side of her head), pulled on her nape, shown on her neck in a curl, under which hang two wavy strands. Another braid, rising up from her temple, is tied to another pulled from the other side of her head, such that the two ends are shown as two wavy tails reminiscent of wings.¹⁵ She wears earrings. Linear border.

Rev.: Palm branch, bound with a ribbon, top end curving to the right, and bottom half of the stem bent toward the right. In left field, AI over  monogram; in right field,  monogram. Linear border.

8. 6.80 g, 20.0 mm, 12:00, HMA19992/152. The monogram in left field is barely visible.

9. 6.75 g, 19.3 mm, 12:00, HMA19992/151.

10. 6.67 g, 19.9 mm, 1:00, A. Aylvazian coll. Only the letters AI are noticeable in the left field, the monograms in the left and right fields are not visible.

¹² More detailed information is not available, as these coins were uncovered in the course of unauthorized excavations.

¹³ The author expresses his sincere thanks to A. Aylvazian for making the coins of his collection available for study and giving permission to publish them.

¹⁴ For data on four additional specimens of this type, see Amandry, *op. cit.*, p. 175. The weights of those specimens are 10.42 g, 11.03 g, 12.54 g and 14.20 g.

¹⁵ This type of hair styling, with two side braids pulled up over the top of the head in two small tails, was probably an attribute of the virginal goddesses; only Artemis-Diana and Nike-Victoria are represented that way on Greek and Roman coins. See, for example, S. Ireland and S. Atesogullari, "The Ancient Coins in Amasia Museum," *Studies in Ancient Coinage from Turkey* (London, 1996), p. 118, Nos. 11-14, Plate 51.

11. 6.64 g, 19.6 mm, 1:00, HMA19992/153. In the left field, the letters AI(?), barely legible.
12. 5.95 g, 18.9 mm, 1:00, A. Ayvazian coll. The left field monogram is visible, but the AI letters and the right field monogram are barely legible. This coin appears to be overstruck or double struck.
13. 5.62 g, 18.8 mm, 1:00, A. Ayvazian coll. The date letters and monograms are not legible.

At a minimum, nos. 8 through 11 are struck with the same obverse, but with different reverse dies. Due to the poor conservation of coins no. 12 and 13, it is difficult to make a conclusive observation on those.

In interpreting the letters AI as a year (= 11), Amandry places the two issues Ba and Bb between the issues of groups A and C, which bear, respectively, the years I and IB. On the premise of the indisputable linkage of the iconography of the obverses and the presence of the AI dates on the reverses, the problems of assignment to region and timeframe appear solved. Despite this, certain issues remain, which cast some doubt, as group B presents some substantial differences when compared with groups A and C.

In group A, Tyche's crown has, at the top of each tower, two pellets, and the left and right towers have the same height or the right one is slightly shorter. On the large module coins of groups B and C, Tyche's crown does not have the pellets above the towers, and the height relationship between the left and right towers is reversed, the left one being shorter than the right. On the small module coins of group C, there are again no pellets above the crown's towers, but the height relationship between the left and right towers is again similar to the one in group A. In summary, the large module coins of groups B and C and the small module coins of groups A and C are not only linked to each other by their obverses' general composition, iconography and style, but also by their manufacturing details.

Despite these similarities, group B is fundamentally different from groups A and C in the design of its reverses. The principal differentiating particularity of the Ba and Bb issues is that the legend ΑΡΤΑΞΙΣΑΤΩΝ ΜΗΤΡΟΠΟΛΕΩΣ, which without a doubt attributes the coins of groups A and C to the mint of Artaxata, is missing from them. Groups A and C also have a dual dating with two different eras, while the coins of group B bear only one date year, in the left field. Additionally, the order of the small date-year letters on the coins of groups B and C is also different: AI on the coins of group B, IB on those of group C.

In the right field of the coins of group B, in the place where, in groups A and C, are located the years ΖΞ and ΘΞ, we see instead the monogram ΠΙ. We can also see, on the reverse of the three noted specimens of the HMA, below the AI letters in the left field, the monogram ΞΑ (judging from the photograph of the coin published by Amandry, the lower left field is missing the monogram on this specimen), while on the coins of group C, the monogram (ΚΙ) is in the right field, under the letters ΘΞ.

What necessity forced, after the striking of the coins of group A, the noticeable changes in the designs of the issues of the Ba and Bb series, and, later, in the striking of group C, the demonstrated return to the similarity with the design of group A? This question contemplates both the reverses' general composition, as well as the numbering systems used on the issues. By filling the ranks of the Artaxata civic issues with the Ba and Bb series, we gain important new information, which can noticeably enhance our understanding of those difficult years previously known only from the historical sources, and as disclosed from the other coinages of Artaxata.

After the death of Tigranes III (9/8 BC), in the words of *Dio*, "Armenia had shown hostility to Rome" (*Dio*, LV, 9.4). In the year 6 BC, Caesar Augustus had recommended that Tiberius take over power in Armenia, but the latter declined. Shortly thereafter, the Armenians rebelled, assisted by the Parthians (*Res Gestae Divi Augusti*, 25-32; *Dio*, LV, 10.18-21). The struggle for power was fought between the sons of Tigranes III, on one side Tigranes IV and his sister Erato, who were backed by the Parthians, and on the other side Artavasdes (III), who had become king of Armenia by Augustus' order (*Tacitus, Annals*, II, 3-4). Artavasdes soon became sick and died (*Dio*, LV, 10.18-21), or, more probably, was deposed by the Armenians, to the detriment of the Romans (*Tacitus, Annals*, II, 3-4). In Parthia, in a letter sent to Phraataces, the successor of Phraates IV (after 2 BC), Augustus requested from him that he stay away from Armenia. Having lost all hope for Parthian help in defending his authority, Tigranes IV sent gifts to Augustus, with a letter informing him that his opponent (Artavasdes [III]) had been removed. In this letter, instead of naming himself king, he apparently requested the royal title from Augustus. Touched by Tigranes' petition, and at the same time worried about renewing hostilities with the Parthians, Augustus accepted the gifts and, with warm wishes, entreated Tigranes to go to Syria to join his adopted son Gaius (*Dio*, LV, 10.18-21), whom he had sent there to settle the affairs of the East.

Gaius went to Syria in AD 1, but in the same year, Tigranes IV died fighting the barbarians, and Queen Erato renounced the throne (*Dio*, LV, 10A.4-7). The Parthian king Phraataces, seeing conditions in his country grow unfavorable, quickly came to an agreement with Gaius and promised to stay out of Armenia (*Dio*, LV, 10A.4-7). Following this, the historical sources give us conflicting information, which however represent differing interpretations of the same facts. According to *Tacitus*, "Gaius' nominee Ariobarzanes, a Mede by origin, had a fine character and splendid appearance which endeared him to the Armenians" (*Tacitus, Annals*, II, 3-4). Augustus said of this that "when the people (the Armenians) opposed me and rebelled, I subjected them to the authority of my son Gaius, and gave the royal throne to Ariobarzanes, son of the Median king Artavasdes (*Res Gestae Divi Augusti*, 25-32). On the other hand, according to *Dio*, "the Armenians went to war with Rome in spite of the fact that Tigranes [IV] had meanwhile lost his life in a war against the barbarians, and Erato, the Armenian queen, had renounced her throne. They took up arms because they were being handed over to the rule of a Mede, one Ariobarzanes, who at an earlier date had approached the Romans in Syria together with Tiridates. These events took place in the following year, when Publius Vinicius and Publius Varus were consuls" (*Dio*, LV, 10A.4-7). Of course, there was in Armenia at this time a segment of the population with whose agreement or even suggestion Ariobarzanes was proclaimed king of Armenia by the Romans. According to *Dio*, it is obvious that the other segments of the population faced with fierce opposition the appointment of Ariobarzanes as their king, and consequently rose in war against Rome.

Gaius personally accompanied Ariobarzanes to Armenia, and there met with the rebellious Armenian opposition. "The Armenians accomplished no successes of any consequence against the Romans. But a certain Addon, who was holding the town of Artageira, persuaded Gaius to venture near the walls on the pretext that he would disclose to him secret intelligence concerning the Parthian king, and then contrived to wound him. The Romans thereupon besieged Addon, but he held out for a long time; when he was finally captured, not only Augustus but also Gaius assumed the title of Imperator. Augustus and the Senate handed over Armenia first to Ariobarzanes, and then when he died soon afterwards, to his son Artavasdes" (*Dio*, LV, 10A.4-7). There is also, regarding these events, a passage by *Florus* that has been preserved.

"We had additional difficulties in the East with the Armenians. He [Augustus] sent there one of the two Caesars, his grandsons. Both had a short destiny,

but one was additionally lacking in glory, for Lucius died in Massilia of sickness, while Gaius eventually died in Syria of a wound he received while reconquering Armenia, which had started to secretly form an alliance with the Parthians. The Armenians, after the defeat of their king Tigranes [II] had become accustomed by Pompey to a sort of servitude which obligated them only to receiving their leaders from us. It is thus this prerogative, the enforcement of which had been interrupted, that was restored by Gaius at the end of a struggle, which, though not without bloodshed, was nevertheless not very important. Thus, Donnes ... pretended that he was betraying his lord, and approaching Gaius, who was busy reading a letter presented by him and supposed to contain the list of treasures, he quickly drew his sword and struck Gaius. It is true that Caesar's wound healed initially. But, as for the Barbarian, surrounded and overwhelmed by the soldiers and their blows, the sword which struck him, and the fire in which he jumped afterwards, served the revenge of Caesar, who had survived.¹⁶

These events are also recorded by *Dio*. His information regarding the agreement between Gaius and Phraataces is immediately followed by his narrative regarding the events in Armenia. The two consuls mentioned above ruled in AD 2, therefore the Roman-Parthian agreement may have been sealed in AD 1, such that the following year, in AD 2, the events in question took place in Armenia.

According to Tacitus, Ariobarzanes "died a natural death" (Tacitus, *Annals*, II, 3-4), and "then when he died soon afterwards" his son Artavasdes was installed on the Armenian throne by Augustus (*Dio*, LV, 10A.4-7; *Res Gestae Divi Augusti*, 25-32). The Armenians, however, did not accept to be ruled by the son of Ariobarzanes (Tacitus, *Annals*, II, 3-4), and assassinated Artavasdes (*Res Gestae Divi Augusti*, 25-32).


By combining the complementary data of numismatic and written historic sources, it becomes possible, perhaps, to understand the circumstances surrounding the emission of this series, and the historic events leading up to them, in the years AD 1 to AD 3/4.


The A emission, dated AD 1/2 was struck after the death of Tigranes IV and the abdication of Erato, when it had become evident that Rome wished to grant the Armenian throne to Ariobarzanes of Media. The forces opposing the politics of Rome rebelled during the course of these events. The center of the insurgency was the capital, Artaxata, where the first coins boasting the name of the city were struck. They bear on the reverse, following the author's theory, in addition to the date according to the local era of Artaxata [year 10], the year 67 according to the Pompeian era, in commemoration of the peace treaty sealed in 66 BC between Pompey and Tigranes the Great, and as a reminder to the Romans of the impending breakdown of that treaty under the current circumstances.

When, in AD 2, Gaius went to Armenia with Roman reinforcements, the insurgents evidently were forced to abandon Artaxata and to entrench themselves in the fortress of Artageira.¹⁷ The

¹⁶ P. Jal, ed., *Florus. Oeuvres*. Vol. 2, Les Belles Lettres (Paris, 1967), p. 71. The author expresses his thanks to Giusto Traina for providing him a copy of this excerpt in the original language as well as in a French translation.

¹⁷ The exact location of Artageira (see Figure 1) has not been resolved, but it can probably be accounted for at the village of Kers, on the left bank of the Araxes River, west of the confluence with the Akhuryan River; see Gh. Alishan, *Airarat* (Venice, St. Lazare, 1890), p. 57-58 (in Armenian); also, *Dic-*

conflict reached its peak at this point, and lasted quite a long time. "The Romans thereupon besieged Addon [in Artageira], but he held out for a long time" (Dio, LV, 10A.4-7). "Caesar's generals, after a long siege, occupied and demolished its defenses" (Strabo, XI, 14.6). The intermediate emissions of Artaxata, labeled Ba and Bb, were struck in this period, but they lack the legend ΑΡΤΑΞΙΣΑΤΩΝ ΜΗΤΡΟΠΟΛΕΩΣ, which was present on the coins of the prior A group. It is the author's belief that the explanation for this is that the coins of the B group emission were struck not in Artaxata proper, but rather in a new site, namely, Artageira. This conclusion may be based on one additional piece of evidence, the  monogram. The fortress referred to by medieval Armenian sources as Artagers is in turn referred to in the Greek texts as Αρταγείρα (Strabo, Dio Cassius), or Αρταγίγαρτα (Ptolemy), while the Latin sources call it by the Artagera or Arto-gerassa forms (Ammianus Marcellinus).¹⁸ The monogram above is made up of four of the letters in the fortress's name: Α, Ρ, Τ and Γ (if the extension to the right of the horizontal of the letter Τ is interpreted to represent a Γ). On the other hand, if we conclude that the letter Γ is absent in the monogram, then it can be attributed to Artaxata. In that case, however, the issue arises as to why the name of Artaxata would be added in monogram form to the reverse of the group B issues. Thus, this hypothesis is also less probable due to the reason, as seen above, that the main events of this year centered not in Artaxata, but rather in Artageira. Therefore, it must be assumed that the group B coins, in contrast to the issues of the previous year, were not struck by the ruling nobility representing the Artaxata citizens, but rather, more specifically, by the rebelling forces, which no longer represented the whole population of the capital Artaxata.

In the right field of the Ba and Bb issues, where the A group coins have the year according to the Pompeian era, appears the monogram . This monogram in no way could represent a date, and therefore must be representing the initials of an official. These coin issues continue to be dated according to one of the local eras (AI), in the left field of the reverse, and it is reasonable to assume that, in the right field, an alternate calendar would be used to replace the Pompeian era date in dating the coins of these issues. Dio clearly states that the events in Artageira took place in that year "when Publius Vinicius (Πούπλιος Ουνικιος) and Publius Varus (Πούπλιος Ουαρως) were consuls." The letters Π and Ο correspond to the initial letters of the names of the two consuls. It is true that no other instance has come to the author's attention of a coin issue being marked by the use of the initials of the then-Roman consuls. Roman Provincial coins usually celebrated as eponyms the municipal magistrates or proconsuls, sometimes preceded in legends by the prefix ΕΠΙ ("in the days of"). However, the previous hypotheses can be advanced even though no precedent is known to us of a similar numismatic instance, since these issues, by their nature, are altogether without precedent.

The argument could also be advanced, that the Armenians [in Artageira] were insurrecting against Rome, and therefore would have had no reason to date their coins by mention of the consuls' names. However, that objection can be refuted by additional facts increasing the probability of this explanation. The issues of all three groups, with their stylistic-iconographic properties, by following the tradition of Hellenistic monetary artistry and with the inclusion of Roman elements, completely conform to the particularities of late Republican and early Imperial coinages. The coin dies, in highest probability, were prepared by the same highly-skilled master die maker. The busts of Tyche and Nike, as well as the image of the advancing Nike, can be added to the lists of the most artistic representations of these goddesses on coins. These coins completely lack the

tionary of Toponyms in Armenia and the Surrounding Regions, Vol. 1 (Yerevan, 1986), p. 488 (in Armenian).

¹⁸ Gh. Alishan, *op. cit.*, p. 57.

striking Eastern influences present on the coinages of the Artaxiad kings after Artavasdes II. It must be pointed out that the focus of the insurgency, in general, was not anti-Roman, and did not have a cultural bias, but was a rebellion against the politics of Augustus Caesar in Armenia, and in that sense was anti-Augustus rather than anti-Roman. The author completely agrees with the point of view that the Armenians insurrected because Ariobarzanes (and after him, his son Artavasdes), while becoming elevated to the throne of Armenia, remained at the same time king of Media Atropatene.¹⁹ In the context of these events, is it not easy to explain then, that on the obverse of a denarius of Augustus discovered in the excavations of Agarak in 2001, the gouge across the emperor's portrait and through his eye is an expression of the enmity felt by the Armenians at the time?²⁰

After the Romans crushed the Armenian insurgency, Augustus and the Senate confirmed Gaius' choice of Ariobarzanes as king of Armenia (Dio, LV, 10A.4-7). Ariobarzanes' reign was short lived; he died a natural death (Tacitus, Annals, II, 3-4). Dio's words that "and then when he died soon afterwards, [the Armenian throne passed] to his son Artavasdes" and Tacitus' that "they [the Armenians] would not have his child [as their king]," together with the subsequent coin issue of Artaxata (group C), bear witness that, after Ariobarzanes' death, Artavasdes did not immediately inherit the throne, but a certain interruption was caused by a renewed wave of Armenian discontent. The appearance of the coins of group C struck in AD 3/4 can be attributed to the short-lived period of time falling between the reigns of the two Median kings. If the Armenians insurrected again, this time they appear to have been united, as the coins once again were struck in Artaxata, and by resuming the use of the city's name, this issue returns to its roots as previously seen in the group A issue.

The main points of the author's conclusions can be summarized as follows:

- Group A. Struck in Artaxata, between the announcement of Ariobarzanes as king of Armenia and the arrival of Gaius Caesar in Armenia in AD 1/2, in the name of the city of Artaxata.
- Group B. Struck in Artageira during the insurrection of the Armenians of AD 2.
- Group C. Struck in Artaxata, between the death of Ariobarzanes and the rising to the throne of Artavasdes, in AD 3/4, in the name of the city of Artaxata.

Despite this, any historical reconstitution cannot be as close to the real events of the time as we might wish, since the coins reach historians and numismatists studying them outside of their archeological contexts. Thus, the author never ceases from advising anyone who has a connection with ancient coins, whether archeologist, government worker, coin collector, coin dealer, or agricultural or construction worker, about understanding the extraordinary importance of any information regarding the place and circumstances of discovery of any coin, such that each to the measure of his responsibility may report them and be conscientious with respect to them.²¹

¹⁹ *History of the Armenian People*, Vol. 1 (Yerevan, 1971), p. 708, (in Armenian); H. H. Asatouryan, *Diplomatic Relations between Armenia and Rome from 190 BC to AD 428* (Venice, St. Lazare, 1912), p. 142 (in Armenian).

²⁰ R. Vardanyan, "The Denarius of Augustus Caesar Discovered in the Archeological Excavations of Agarak," *Hin Hayastani Mshakuyte (The Culture of Ancient Armenia)*, Vol. XII, Scientific Conference of the Republic, abstracts of presentations (Yerevan, 2002), pp. 65-70 (in Armenian).

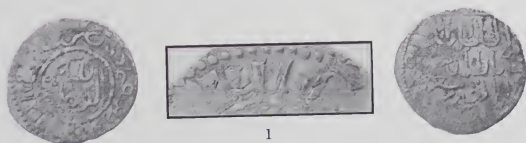
²¹ R. Vardanyan, "Archeological Heritage: National Treasure," *Law and Reality*, No. 7, (Yerevan, April 2002), pp. 29-31 (in Armenian).



Ruben Vardanyan, Regarding Civic Bronzes Struck in Armenia in A.D. 1-4



Y. T. Nercessian, Two Drachms of Tigranes II with Unrecorded Field Letters



Levon Vrtanesyan and Hüsni Öztürk, A Note on Armeno-Seljuq Numismatic Relations: A Tram of Cilician Armenia Overstruck By the Seljuqs of Rum

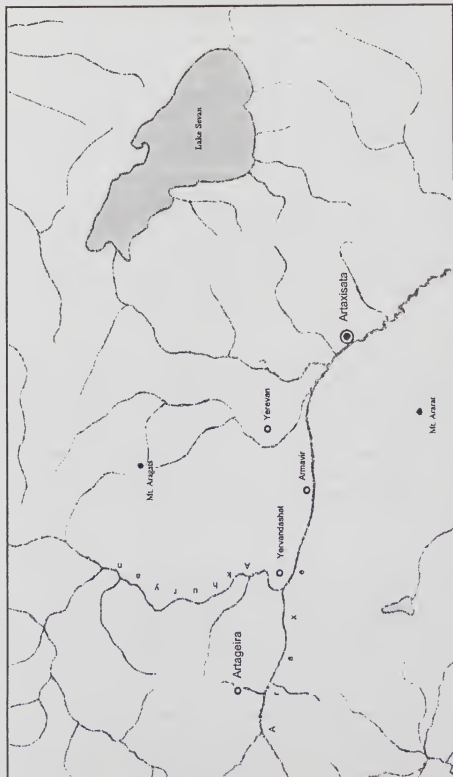


Figure 1: Map showing the presumed location of Artageira. Approximate scale: 1 cm = 15 km

ARMENIAN NUMISMATIC LITERATURE

15 NERCESSIAN, Y. T. *Metrology of Cilician Armenian Coinage*, by Y. T. Nercessian. Los

Angeles: Armenian Numismatic Society, *Special Publication*, No. 13, 2007, xiv, 161 pp., 1 map. The monograph is an essential manual to those who are engaged in studying the coinage of Cilician Armenia. Columns of data offered includes the weight for all coins, most of the coin diameters, and when available the die axis orientation. The weights of 11,174 coins are given, subdivided as follows: baronial period, Roupen I (1080-1095), 13 copper pieces; Gosdantin I (1092-1100), 7 coppers; T'oros I (1100-1129), 12 coppers; Levon I (1129-1137), 2 coppers; T'oros II (1144-1168), 5 coppers; Roupen II (1175-1187), 7 coppers; Levon II (1187-1198), 24 coppers; royal period, Levon I (1198-1219), 8 gold tahekans and 3 half gold tahekans, 4 billons in Latin, 2 billons in Armenian, 276 double trams, 158 half double trams, 4 quarter double trams, 23 single lion and 252 double lion coronation trams, 1355 trams, 50 half trams, and 301 tanks; Levon-Hetoum or Hetoum-Levon 2 gold tahekans; Hetoum I (1226-1270), Hetoum-Kaikobad bilingual 7 trams and a 4 half trams, Hetoum-Kaikhosrew bilingual 221 trams and 24 half trams, 1409 Hetoum-Zabel trams and 78 half trams, 1 half tram struck with tram dies, 299 tanks, 135 equestrian and 161 regular kardezzees; Levon II (1270-1289), 10 precoronation trams, 332 new trams, 2 half trams struck with complete legend and 1 only obverse with complete legend, 52 half trams struck with tram dies, 3 tanks, and 137 kardezzees; Hetoum II (1289-1306), 51 billons with Latin and 15 with Byzantine crosses, 102 kardezzees with king's bust facing and 675 with king seated, 1 kardez struck with billion dies, 8 kardezzees overstruck in Arabic; Smpad (1296-1298), 41 coronation and 66 regular trams, 5 half trams, and 181 poghs; Gosdantin I (1298-1299), 2 gold tahekans, 1 double tram, 26 trams, and 46 kardezzees; Levon III (1301-1307), 574 takvorins, 3 half trams, 4 takvorin overstruck in Arabic, 684 kardezzees, and 1 kardez struck with Hetoum II billion die; Oshin (1308-1320), 97 coronation trams, 2 half trams, 552 takvorins, and 19 takvorins overstruck in Arabic, 1 pogh struck with takvorin dies, 1 equestrian pogh, and 77 poghs with king seated; Levon IV (1320-1342), 288 takvorins, 4 half trams, 88 takvorins overstruck in Arabic, 45 large and 132 small poghs; Guy (1342-1344), 65 takvorins, 1 takvorin overstruck in Arabic, and 7 poghs; Gosdantin III (1344-1363), 473 takvorins, 2 takvorins overstruck in Arabic, 53 poghs struck with takvorin dies, and 53 poghs; Levon the Usurper (1363-1365), 205 takvorins, 1 takvorin overstruck in Arabic, 12 poghs struck with takvorin dies, 2 large poghs, and 17 and poghs; Gosdantin IV (1365-1373), 684 takvorins, 117 poghs struck with takvorin dies, and 16 poghs; Levon V (1374-1375), 72 billons and 145 poghs; Post Roupenian 3 silver and 20 copper coins.

Author

Մենագրութիւնը անհրաժեշտ ձեռագիրք մըն է բոլոր անոնց համար, որոնք կ'ուսումնասիրեն կիլիկեան Հայաստանի դրամահատութիւնը: Միւնակներով ընծայուած սուեայները կը պարունակեն բոլոր դրամներու կշիռները, դրամներու մեծամասնութեան տրամադիծերը, և երբ մատչելի եղած է առանցքային ուղղութիւնները: Տրուած են 11,256 դրամներու կշիռները, ստորաբաժնուած՝ հետևապէս՝ իշխանական շրջան Ռուբէն Ա (1080-1095), պղինձ 13 կտոր: Կոստանդին Ա (1092-1100), 7 պղինձ: Թորոս Ա (1100-1123), 12 պղինձ: Լևոն Ա (1129-1127), 2 պղինձ: Թորոս Բ (1144-1168), 5 պղինձ: Ռուբէն Բ (1175-1187), 7 պղինձ: Լևոն Բ (1187-1198), 24 պղինձ: Թաղաւորական շրջան Լևոն Ա (1198-1219), 8 ոսկի դահեկան ու 3 կէս ոսկի դահեկան, 4 լատիներէն և 2 հայերէն բիլլոն, 276 երկդրամ, 158 կէս երկդրամ, 4 քառորդ երկդրամ, 23 մի և 252 երկու առիւծով օծման դրամ, 1355 դրամ ու 50 կիսադրամ, և 301 դանդ: Լևոն-Հէթում կամ Հէթում-Լևոն 2 ոսկի դահեկան, Հէթում Ա (1226-1270), Հէթում-Քալքոնդատի երկլեզուեան 57 դրամ ու 4 կիսադրամ, Հէթում-Քալիտարովի երկլեզուեան 221 դրամ և 24 կիսադրամ, 1409 Հէթում-Չապլի դրամ ու 78 կիսադրամ, 299 դանդ, 135 ձիավար և 161 հասարակ քարտէջ: Լևոն Բ (1270-1289), 10 նախօծման դրամ, 332 նոր դրամ 2 կիսադրամ լրիւ խրադրութեամբ, 1 կիսադրամ միայն երեսը լրիւ խրադրութեամբ, 52 կիսադրամ կոխուած դրամներու կտապարներով, 3 դանդ, 137 քարտէջ: Հէթում Բ (1289-1306), 51 բիլլոն լատինական և 15 բիւզանդական խաչով, 102 քարտէջ (cont. on p. 93)

TWO DRACHMS OF TIGRANES II WITH UNRECORDED FIELD LETTERS

Plate 3

Y. T. NERCESSIAN

Recently two collectors brought to our attention two drachms of Tigranes II the Great (95-56 B.C.). On one of them the field letters were such that it could not be catalogued based on the numbering system in our book dedicated to the die study of silver coins of the Artaxiad Dynasty.¹ According to the collector, the coin was found in Shamshadin, Armenia, in 1992.

The engraving of field letters had a strange shape. The second letter above the swimmer's head was puzzling. It resembled the Greek letter Λ with a small circle at the upper right side. Could it be Ω on the top of the Λ ? Then, the two legs of Λ seemed to be so close to each other that it was decided to accept it as letter B. The entire field letters on the coin would be read as EA-IB-EC. The field letters in right field were not catalogued in the *Silver Coinage of the Artaxiad Dynasty of Armenia*.

Obv.: Bust of Tigranes draped r., clean shaven and wearing five pointed Armenian tiara having very high triangular peaks, edged with pearls. A broad diadem knotted at the back encircles the head and falls downward. Divided drapes cover the ear and the neck. The tiara is adorned with a seven-rayed star flanked by two eagles back to back and with heads turned to each other. Border of dots.

Rev.: Tyche of Artaxata, draped and wearing a turreted crown, seated r. on a rock, holding a palm-branch in her r. hand; at her feet the upper portion of a youthful male nude figure of the river-god Araxes swimming r. Legend to r. downward ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ; to l. downward ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΝ/ΤΙΓΡΑΝΟΥ . In r. field. between palm-branch and head of Tyche, letters EA; above swimmer's head, IB; below swimming figure, EC.

No. 1. Data: 3.88 grams, 20 mm, die axis orientation 11h, Arkadi Gevorkyan coll.

On tetradrachms and drachms struck in Artaxata the field letters between Tyche's head palm-branch represent numbers 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, and 39 (CA or $\Gamma\Lambda$, $\Delta\Lambda$, EA, $\zeta\Lambda$, ZA, HA, $\Theta\Lambda$).

The field letters above the swimmer's head and below the palm-branch, associated with EA and all others engraved on silver coins struck in Artaxata are A, B, Γ , Δ , E, ζ , Z, H, Θ , I, IB, K, Λ . These letters would correspond to 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 20, and 30.

The unrecorded letters IB, corresponding to 12, was unknown to the author. What does it mean? What is the significance?

¹ Y. T. Necessian, *Silver Coinage of the Artaxiad Dynasty of Armenia* (Los Angeles, 2006).

Previously we had twelve different letters in the right field. Some numismatists have accepted them as the issue of month. Now we have thirteen designations. Obviously, we can conclude that they cannot represent a month. In our book, we noted that they may indicate the sequence of coins issued.² Now this thought seems to be more persuasive than ever.

The second drachm has an unrecorded field letter, ΖΛ-Γ-ΞΚ; however, it would fit in the cataloguing system of our corpus.

Obv.: Bust of Tigranes draped r. as No. 1, but the tiara is adorned with eight-rayed star.

Rev.: Tyche of Artaxata, draped and wearing a turreted crown, seated r. as No. 1. Legend to r. downward ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ; to l. downward ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΝ/ΤΙΓΡΑΝΟΥ. In r. field. between palm-branch and head of Tyche, letters ΖΛ; above swimmer's head, Γ; below swimming figure, ΞΚ.

No. 2. Data: ? grams, ? mm, die axis orientation ?h, Edik Hovanesian coll.

The obverse die of this drachm is a35 as recorded in SCA.³ However, the reverse has a new and unrecorded field letter.

ՏԻԳՐԱՆ ՄԵԾԻ ԵՐԿՈՒ ԴՐԱԽՄԱՆԵՐ ՋՏԵԼԵԿԱԳՐՈՒԱԾ ԴԱՇՏԻ ՏԱՌԵՐՈՎ

[Ամփոփում]

Երկու հաւաքողներ մէկական դրախմաներ մեր ուշադրութեան առարկայ ըրին, որոնք ունին չտեղեկագրուած դաշտի տառեր ու չեն ցուցակագրուած մեր Արտաշէսեան հարստութեան վերաբերեալ գիրքին մէջ:

Առաջին դրախմային դաշտի տառերն են ΕΛ-ΙΒ-ΞΚ, Յատկանշական դաշտի դառը, որ կը քանդակուած է լուղորդի զլխուն վերև և արմաւենիի ճիւղին ներքև, ունի ΙΒ ձևը կը համապատասխանէ 12-ի, և ստորագրեալին անծանօթ էր:

Նախապէս նոյն վայրը ցուցակագրուած էին տասներկու տարբեր նշանադրեր: Այդ պատճառով որոշ դրամագէտներ ենթադրած էին, թէ դրախմային թողարկուած ամիսն է: Հիմա որ տասներեք տարբեր նշումներ կան, վստահօրէն չեն կրնար համապատասխանել տարուան տասներկու ամիսներուն:

Երկրորդ դրախման, մեզի համար նորայայտ է: ունի ΖΛ-Γ-ΞΚ դաշտի տառերը: Հատովին այս տառերը նորութիւն մը չեն. սակայն երեք վայրերու տաշտի տառերը միատեղ տեղեկագրուած ու ցուցակագրուած չեն մեր վերոյիշեալ աշխատանքին մէջ:

Տիգրան Մեծի այս երկու դրախմաները միատեղ կու գան փոքր յաւելում մը կատարելու իր դրամական համակարգին դաշտի նշաններու շարքը համալրելու աշխատանքին:

Ե. Թ. Ներսիսեան

² *ibid.*, p. 150.

³ *ibid.*, p. 100, pl. 88.

TRADE TOKENS ISSUED BY MEGUERDITCH TOKATLIAN OF CONSTANTINOPLE

L. A. SARYAN, Ph.D.

Metallic Armenian tokens are extremely rare, and literature about them is virtually non-existent. A comprehensive bibliography published in 1984,¹ listing more than 1200 publications covering all aspects of Armenian numismatics, notes only seven entries pertaining to Armenian tokens. All of these sources refer to paper or thin cardboard tokens issued in the late 1870's by Armenian churches in Ottoman Turkey.² Not even a single article mentioning metallic tokens is listed in this reference work.³

Tokens are unofficial monetary substitutes typically used in place of cash for small purchases. Along with medals and decorations they are classified as exonomia. Modern tokens usually resemble coins; they are ordinarily circular, made of metal or plastic, and give information about the issuer as well as the nominal value of the token in the marketplace. Since trade tokens are not issued by a governmental body, they lack official status, and thus are redeemable only by the issuer.

Trade tokens grew in popularity in the United States during the nineteenth century.⁴ Private merchants issued them to advertise their establishments and stimulate commerce. Tokens were used to facilitate small transactions, to make change, to compensate for a shortage of specie to advertise business establishments, and to offer discounts to preferred customers. If for whatever reason a token was saved or not redeemed, the merchant made an additional profit. The earliest American tokens carrying merchant names and addresses date from before the Civil War. By the early twentieth century, metallic trade tokens known as "good fors" had become extremely widespread. They were issued by taverns, restaurants, retail stores, dairies, breweries, lumber camps, mines, manufacturing concerns, and countless other establishments in numerous towns and cities across the United States. These tokens typically carry the name of the establishment or proprietor, the location, and the value (i.e., what it was "good for"). Tokens could be redeemed for merchandise or a service (such as a five-cent beverage) as would often be specified on the legend. The space available on the token for an inscription was limited, however, and thus many do not carry enough information to enable the piece to be definitely attributed as to issuer, date, or loca-

¹ Y. T. Nercessian, *Armenian Numismatic Bibliography and Literature* (Los Angeles, 1984), pp. 576-581.

² See, for example, Kenneth M. MacKenzie, "Armenian Church Tokens used in the Ottoman Empire," *International Bank Note Society Journal*, Vol. 17, No. 2, pp. 85-94, 1978.

³ Two published studies mention Armenian metallic tokens. The first is Dr. Paul Bedoukian's article "Two Armenian Coins" (first published in 1988), which is actually about 19th century Armenian metallic church tokens; see Bedoukian's *Selected Numismatic Studies II* (Los Angeles, 2003), pp. 263-266 (in Armenian). Modern brass and plastic transportation tokens from Armenia are described by L. A. Saryan, "Types and Varieties of Yerevan Metro Tokens," *Armenian Numismatic Journal*, Vol. 26, No. 3-4, pp. 109-112, 2000.

⁴ L. A. Saryan, "Two Centuries of United States Tokens," *N.O.W. News*, Vol. 43, No. 4, pp. 17-18 (Winter 2005).

tion (for example, the tokens described in this study have a name but no street address or city indicated). Attributing these so-called “mavericks” poses a challenge to numismatic researchers. Numerous comprehensive catalogs listing trade tokens issued in the United States have been published.⁵ Private tokens were also issued in many countries other than the United States, but these have not been studied nearly as extensively.

To keep the cost of manufacture as low as possible, private tokens are typically made from inexpensive materials (such as brass, aluminum, fiber, or plastic) and usually do not carry any pictorial devices. Perhaps for this reason they are often overlooked by serious numismatists. Nevertheless, like coins and paper currency, tokens have the capacity to reveal interesting or hidden aspects of local history.

Armenian tokens made of paper, thin cardboard, metal and plastic are known. They may be classified into the following categories: (1) tokens issued in Armenia by merchants, institutions, and government transportation and communication agencies;⁶ (2) tokens issued outside the borders of Armenia (by Armenian institutions such as churches or by Armenian merchants); and (3) tokens issued by non-Armenian agencies or establishments that are inscribed in the Armenian alphabet.⁷ They may also be subdivided into two groups according to date of issue: (1) vintage issues of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, and (2) relatively modern types.

I have encountered just a few scattered examples of Armenian metallic tokens in nearly three decades of research. Their extreme rarity and the paucity of published data explain why no one has tried to list or catalog them heretofore. Many Armenian specialists don't even realize that such tokens exist, waiting to be discovered, recognized, and studied.

This article presents three different but related metallic tokens issued by an Armenian businessman in Constantinople about a century ago. Each token is struck on the same light-colored metal (probably a copper-nickel alloy), and some show surface deposits of verdigris. They bear a remarkable resemblance to trade tokens commonly used in the USA 50 to 100 years ago. Each is inscribed with the name of the merchant (spelled clockwise in French⁸). The nominal value of each token is given in the center. Both faces of each token are identical (except as noted below). The tokens share a stylistic unity suggesting that they were issued at the same time. A detailed description of each token, based on two complete sets in this author's collection, follows below⁹:

1 (kurush): (Fig. 1) circular white metal (copper-nickel alloy), 24.6 mm in diameter, die axis 0°, weights of two examples: 4.04 grams, 3.98 grams. Both the obverse and reverse of this token show a large numeral 1 in center enclosed by clockwise circular legend naming merchant MĒ-GUERDITCH TOKATLIAN. Border of dots. Words of the name separated by two small stars.¹⁰

⁵ G. E. (Gene) Johnson's *Trade Tokens of Wisconsin* (Wisconsin Rapids, 1993) is one example.

⁶ The Yerevan Metro tokens fall into this category.

⁷ Some of the paper tokens issued in the late 1870's are inscribed in the Armenian language, even though they were issued by non-Armenian institutions.

⁸ The spelling “Meguerditch” is transliterated from Armenian using French phonetics.

⁹ I obtained two sets of these tokens in 2004 via a dealer in Istanbul, and another collector obtained a third set. In March 2007, a fourth set of three tokens sold on eBay for over \$750.

¹⁰ Detailed examination of this token reveals that the two faces are not exactly identical. One star on one of the faces appears to be doubly punched, while the remainder of the token appears to be free of any sign of doubling. (This can be observed on both examples in my collection.) This observation is a clue that indicates the method of manufacture. To strike this token, at least two identical dies were needed, one

5 (kurush): (Fig. 2) octagonal white metal (copper-nickel alloy), 27.1 mm diameter point to point, 25.3 mm side to side, die axis 0°, weights of two examples: 5.35 grams, 5.36 grams. Both the obverse and reverse of this token show a large numeral 5 in center enclosed by clockwise circular legend MEGUERDITCH TOKATLIAN. Border of dots. Words of the name separated by two small quatrefoils.¹¹

10 (kurush): (Fig. 3) circular white metal (copper-nickel alloy), 20.4 mm in diameter, die axis 0°, weights of two examples, 2.57 grams, 2.46 grams. Both the obverse and reverse of this token show a large numeral 10 in center enclosed by clockwise circular legend MEGUERDITCH TOKATLIAN. Border of dots. Words of the name separated by two small dots.¹²

These tokens are considered mavericks, since they carry no indication of the location of the issuer. Nevertheless, based on historical data, we are able to firmly attribute these tokens to Meguerditch Tokatlian, founder and proprietor of the Tokatlian Restaurant and Hotel in Constantinople, whose establishments flourished in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Constantinople and its environs had a large and prosperous Armenian community (especially prior to the World War I genocide of the Armenians in Turkey), with several dozen churches and national institutions, schools, a hospital, publishing houses, and commercial firms. Many of the leading business establishments in the city were owned and operated by Armenians at this time.

A century ago, the Tokatlian Hotel was considered the most prestigious hostelry in Constantinople. According to an undated advertising brochure printed to promote the hotel and touring in the city, the "Hotel M. Tokatlian" was "considered the most luxurious and most comfortable hotel in Constantinople."¹³ It is reported to have had many modern conveniences, including electricity service as early as 1914. The Tokatlian Hotel was immortalized in Agatha Christie's famous mystery novel, *Murder on the Orient Express*.

Meguerditch Tokatlian's initial business venture was a restaurant which he opened in a very busy section of the Grand Bazaar (the famous covered market) in Constantinople in 1883. After this proved successful, he established a café and pastry shop called Café Restaurant de Paris. In 1895, he opened a restaurant, coffee shop and a small hotel in a single building, which he expanded in 1909 (Fig. 5). The Tokatlian Hotel specialized in catering to the needs of foreign diplomats and wealthy tourists. Located on the Grande Rue de Pera near the center of the Pera district, it was within a few blocks of several major foreign embassies, including those of Great Britain, France, Russia, Italy, and the United States. It was also situated in close proximity to numerous parks, gardens, theatres, and foreign hospitals. It boasted 160 rooms for year-round overnight accommodations, with bathrooms and private apartments. The hotel also had large drawing

each for the obverse and reverse. These dies were prepared individually, probably by punching the lettering into the face of the die. On one of the dies, the star in question was probably punched twice and the punch rotated slightly on the second strike. Also see the next two footnotes.

¹¹ Miniscule differences in the dot border and in the centering of the large numeral 5 are apparent when the two faces are compared. This is observed on both examples. See footnotes 10 and 12.

¹² Detailed examination shows tiny differences in the dot border above the letter R on the two faces. This is seen on both examples. See footnotes 10 and 11.

¹³ Quoted from a pocket-sized multilingual (German, English, French, and Ottoman Turkish) undated folding brochure entitled "Hotel M. Tokatlian Pera Constantinople" (printed prior to 1928). The brochure was printed in Geneva, Switzerland.

rooms, dining rooms, and an adjoining restaurant equipped with an extensive wine cellar. The restaurant featured French and eastern cuisine.¹⁴ (Fig. 7)

In addition to the main establishment in Pera (Fig. 6), Tokatlian operated two hotels on the shores of the Bosphorus (Fig. 4) which were open during the summer season from about May to October. One of these was at the Hotel M. Tokatlian at Therapia on the upper Bosphorus, and the other was the Summer Palace. The prosperous restaurant in the Grand Bazaar was also maintained.

The use of French (with no Armenian or Turkish script) on the tokens reflects the fact that the hotel clientele was largely European, as well as the fact that French was the preferred European language among the educated classes in Ottoman Turkey. The Tokatlian Hotel was also used extensively by the Armenian community as a gathering place for posh social functions. Like many other hotels of the grand style, it fell on hard times, and eventually succumbed to a fire about 40 years ago.

Dating these tokens presents a few challenges, since as with most tokens no date is indicated directly on the piece. These could have been struck as early as 1883, but probably were not made until the 1890's or early 1900's. The *terminus ad quem* is 1928, when the Latin alphabet was adapted for Turkish. Tokens issued after 1928 would be expected to spell the family name "Tokatliyan" according to the revised orthography.

The currency unit is also not specified on the token and this requires some explanation. Contemporary US tokens were usually for very small sums (five or ten cents typically) and thus the unit (cents) was not always specified. Businessmen were unlikely to redeem a token labeled 5 for five dollars, unless the word dollars was specified. Probably, the fact that the currency unit is not specified suggests (1) that these tokens were denominated using the lowest value unit in circulation,¹⁵ (2) that all three tokens were of the same currency unit, and (3) that the unit was so widely used that it was not thought necessary to specify it. These tokens, after all, were a coinage substitute, and after about 1900, the smallest value circulating coins in Turkey were denominated in *kurush*. If we consider the possibility that these tokens were instead denominated in units of *para* (40 *para* to the *kurush*), we would have to account for the existence of a 1 *para* token, an amount substantially less in value than even the smallest coin struck in the 1890's. Even in the late 1870's the smallest value paper church token was 5 *para*.¹⁶ The three tokens could easily have been used to pay for food and libation at the Tokatlian restaurants, or as gratuities, but were probably not used to pay for overnight accommodations.

It may be too much to hope that the discovery of these rare metallic trade tokens will open a totally new field of inquiry in Armenian numismatic research, but they should alert us to the possibility that other similar tokens may exist. Besides these tokens, various other types of historical memorabilia have been preserved from the Tokatlian establishments. These include postcards, postal stationery, postal seals (so-called "cinderella stamps"), luggage labels, and other forms of paper ephemera. Hanging from these artifacts is an interesting story waiting to be uncovered and retold.¹⁷

¹⁴ This information is taken from the folding brochure.

¹⁵ The logic here is that a more valuable monetary unit (such as the *lira*, at 100 *kurush* to the *lira*) was of enough value that it would have been specified to avoid confusion.

¹⁶ See MacKenzie, *op.cit.*

¹⁷ The assistance of Manuel Panossian in the research and preparation of this article is gratefully acknowledged.



Fig. 1. 1 Kurush



Fig. 2. 5 Kurush



Fig. 3. 10 Kurush



Fig. 4. Tokatlian hotel on Bosphorus



Fig. 5. Tokatlian Hotel location map



Fig. 6. Tokatlian Hotel in Pera



Fig. 7. Tokatlian Hotel, Restaurant

FANTASY EUROS OF ARMENIA

Armenia is not a part of the European Union. Armenia has its own legal tender coins and bank notes. Furthermore, the coins and bank notes of Armenia are denominated in "dram" and "luma" and have Armenian inscriptions. Therefore, subject coins imitating European Union legal tender coins, or bearing the name of Armenia, even with "essai" or "test" inscription cannot be identified as genuine coins or counterfeits. It is an odd idea for a nonexistent coin, or simply, it is a fantasy.¹

These eight fantasy pieces can be divided into three groups. A, Copper pieces where the coat of arms of the Republic of Armenia is engraved at the obverse, Nos. 1-3. B, brass alloy pieces where an unidentifiable object (shrub or plant) are engraved at the obverse, Nos. 4-6. C, Bimetallic pieces where the bust of a warrior is engraved on the obverse core and a drummer on the other side, Nos. 7-8.

Group A

Obv.: The coat of arm of Armenia is engraved inside of the inner circle, above the coat of arm, the inscription reads "PROVE PROVA PROBE TEST ESSAI;" in the outer circle, the inscription reads at the top "ARMENIA," at the bottom, "2004," at the l. and r. sides, six stars vertically.

Rev.: The denomination is inscribed at the center, "1 CENT" engraved slanted on the two or three of the six horizontal straight lines; on the r. side, an ornamental cross and a sword; in the outer circle, at the upper l. side, "PROVE PROVA PROBE TEST ESSAI;" at the l. and right sides six stars vertically.

- | | |
|---|------------|
| No. 1. 1 cent, 2.25g-16.8 mm-12h, copper | H.I. coll. |
| No. 2. 2 cents, 4.00g-18.5 mm-12h, copper, similar to No. 1 | H.I. coll. |
| No. 3. 5 cents, 5.18g-20.7 mm-12h, copper, similar to No. 1 | H.I. coll. |



Fig. 1. 1 Cent



Fig. 2. 2 Cents



Fig. 3. 5 Cents



Group B

Obv.: An unidentifiable object (could be a shrub or a plant) engraved in the inner circle, above the object, the inscription reads "PROVE PROVA PROBE TEST ESSAI;" in the

¹ I would like to thank collector H.I. for placing his fantasy coins at my disposal for this study.

outer circle, the inscription at the top is "ARMENIA," at the bottom, "2004," at the l. and r. sides, six stars vertically.

Rev.: The denomination is inscribed at the r. side of the inner circle, "10 CENT" engraved slanted on the three of the six vertical straight lines, and at the l. side, a musical instrument; in the outer circle, at the upper r. side, "PROVE PROVA PROBE TEST ESSAI," at the top and the bottom six stars horizontally.

No. 4. 10 cents, 3.88g-19.3 mm-12h, brass alloy "akin to Nordic Gold"

H.I. coll.

No. 5. 20 cents, 4.25g-22mm-12h, brass alloy, similar to No. 4

H.I. coll.

No. 6. 50 cents, 7.21g-24.3mm-12h, brass alloy, similar to No. 4

H.I. coll.



Fig. 4. 10 Cents



Fig. 5. 20 Cents



Fig. 6. 50 Cents

Group C

Obv.: The bust of a warrior r., wearing helmet, heavy beard and mustache, engraved on the core, to the r., the inscription reads "PROVE PROVA PROBE TEST ESSAI," in the ring, the inscription reads at the top "ARMENIA," at the bottom, "2004," at the l. and r. sides, six stars vertically.

Rev.: The denomination is inscribed at the r. side, "1 E" engraved slanted on the four of the six horizontal straight lines, at the l. a drummer: in the ring, at the upper l. side, "PROVE PROVA PROBE TEST ESSAI," at the l. and right sides six stars vertically.

No. 7. 1 E[uro], 6.88g-22.8mm-12h, bimetallic alloy with core nickel, ring brass alloy as above H.I. coll.

No. 8. 2 E[uros], 8.15g-25.7 mm-12h, bimetallic and similar to No. 7

H.I. coll.



Fig. 7. 1 Euro



Fig. 8. 2 Euros

It is very amusing to see some of the designs engraved on the fantasy pieces and also what is not engraved. For example there is no Armenian lettering, not even a single character. Furthermore, the design subjects do not resemble any kind of Armenian cultural images and have nothing to do with the Armenian spirit? In fact they are terrible.

These fantasy pieces have very poor workmanship. The coat of arms of Armenia is a very poor imitation. If a collector would take the time and compare with some of the legal tender euros in circulation, most likely he would conclude that they have very inferior execution.

These Armenian Euros originated in Europe and it is believed they are being made in Italy. There are quite a few internet sellers in Europe who are marketing these sets of Armenia. According to my understanding 7,000 sets have been manufactured. Also, similar sets have been produced for many non-European Union countries besides Armenia.

Levon Saryan² brought to my attention that the Central Bank of Malta, referring to adverts carried in specialized German magazines which claim to be selling “trial versions of Malta’s euro coins,” called them as “Fantasy euro patterns.” Also, these adverts have been circulating since July 2003 and are promoting the sale of these fantasy pieces. The Bank informed the public that to date no official designs for euro coins for Malta have been commissioned.

Originally, the coins were sold in a loose plastic holder-container. Without damaging the container, the coins could be removed to obtain metrological data. The new sets come in a sealed pack with some descriptive information in English. One must admit that the folder housing these fantasy euros is professionally done and looks very attractive. For the benefit of our readers, this information has been reproduced and given below (Figs. 9a, 9b, 9c).

We would like to state that Armenian Numismatic Society’s official policy is not to encourage people who manufacture counterfeit or fantasy pieces.

Y. T. NERCESSIAN



Fig. 9a. Fantasy Euros of Armenia folder information

² I would like to thank Levon Saryan for providing me all the information he had on these fantasy patterns and folders from his set.

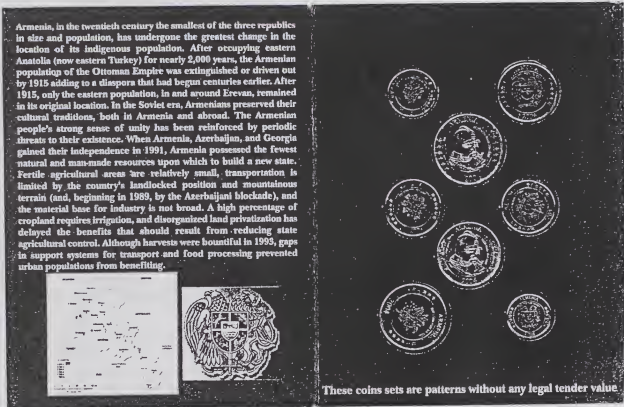


Fig. 9b. Fantasy Euros of Armenia folder information

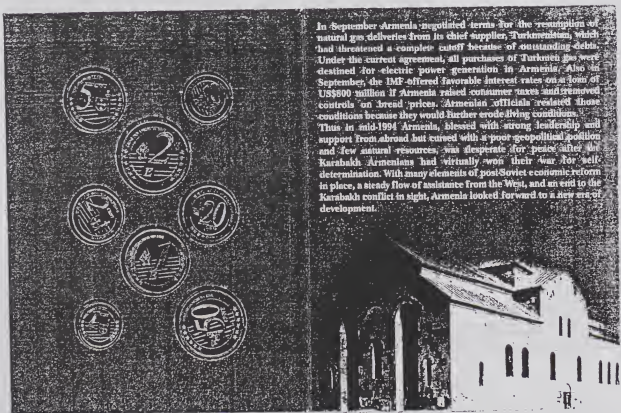


Fig. 9c. Fantasy Euros of Armenia folder information

A NOTE ON ARMENO-SELJUQ NUMISMATIC RELATIONS: A TRAM OF CILICIAN ARMENIA OVERSTRUCK BY THE SELJUQS OF RUM

Plate 3

Levon VRTANESYAN and Hüsni ÖZTÜRK

While our knowledge of Cilician Armenian coins has been expanded by contemporary numismatists including Bedoukian¹ and Nercessian,² it should not be considered unusual for new discoveries to come to light. In particular, there are still gaps in our understanding of the topic of overstrikes in Cilician Armenian coinage. Some studies³ have focused on the relatively well-known and plentiful Armeno-Mamluk surcharge takvorins. However, few have discussed the Armeno-Seljuq overstrikes.

Victor Langlois, the earliest scholar to suggest the existence of Armeno-Seljuq overstrikes, actually misidentified the more common Armeno-Mamluk surcharge takvorins.⁴ Later, Bedoukian published an extremely crude copper of Hetoum II bearing illegible traces of Arabic overstrike, suggesting that the overstrike may have belonged to the Seljuq sultan Kayqubad III.⁵ However, Nercessian argued that this coin does not belong to a Seljuq sultan, but rather to Mamluk sultan al-Ashraf Salah al-Din Khalil.⁶ In this case, it appears that Nercessian is correct, since no coppers of Kayqubad III are known to the authors to have been published to date.

Rhodes⁷ shed some new light on this topic in 1976 and noted some important facts pertaining to the bilingual coin series from the reign of Hetoum I. First, he stated that a marked improvement in the engraving of bilingual drams in 637 A.H. corresponds with traces of overstriking. He noted that a large number of bilinguals dated 637 A.H. were overstruck on earlier Seljuq dirhams. Further, he identified the host on one specimen as a dirham of Kayqubad I from the mint of Konya. He speculated that during this period the mint of Sis acquired a new engraver with a batch of Seljuq coins.

Second, Rhodes also published a pair of dirhams of Kaykhusraw III which appear to have been overstruck on drams of Levon I. He found it interesting that both of these drams were overstruck on dirhams of 664 A.H. (1265/6) from the mint of Lu'lu'a, but failed to provide an expla-

¹ P. Z. Bedoukian, *Coinage of Cilician Armenia* (revised edition, Danbury, Connecticut, 1979).

² Y. T. Nercessian, *Armenian Coins and Their Values* [ACV] (Los Angeles, 1995).

³ P. Z. Bedoukian, "Some Armenian Coins Overstruck in Arabic," *Armeniaca. Mélanges d'études arméniennes*, pp. 138-147 (Venice, St. Lazare, 1969); also in *Selected Numismatic Studies* [I] (Los Angeles, 1981), pp. 161-171; Y. T. Nercessian, "An Overstruck Takvorin of Guy", *Armenian Numismatic Studies*, pp. 418-420 (Los Angeles, 2000); Y. T. Nercessian, "Cilician Armenian Coins Overstruck in Arabic," *Armenian Numismatic Journal*, Ser. I. Vol. XXVIII (2002), No. 1, pp. 3-24, pl. 1.

⁴ V. Langlois, *Numismatique de l'Arménie au Moyen Age* (Paris, 1855), p. 84, Pl. VI, 5. Langlois believed this piece to be a Seljuq coin overstruck by Armenians.

⁵ See above, note 3, Bedoukian, pp. 141-142.

⁶ See above, note 2, Nercessian, pp. 145-146.

⁷ N. G. Rhodes, "Some Armenian Notes", *The Numismatic Circular* (October 1976), pp. 370-371.

nation. He simply suggested that previous control of the city by the Armenians, and its proximity to the border of Cilician Armenia, may have had something to do with the occurrence of these overstrikes.

Recently, a dirham of the Seljuq of Rum sultan Ghiyath al-Din Mas'ud II overstruck on an Armenian dram has come to light (cf. Figure 1). While the date as well as the mint location is illegible on this specimen, the design and type coincides with dirhams struck in the H. 680-690's, during this ruler's first reign. The specimen weighs 2.71 grams, and ranges in diameter from 23.5-25 mm.⁸



Fig. 1

Obverse	Reverse
center الله العظمة	السلطان الا(عظم) غياث الدنيا (والدين) ابو الفتح مسعود بن (كيكاس)
margin 12:00 ← ضرب ...	Translation
center Lillah al-azamat	al-Sultan al-('azam) Ghiyath al-dunya (wa al-din) ebu al-fath Mas'ud bin (Kayka'us)
margin 12:00 ← duribe ...	

Enough of the host coin survives to propose a tentative attribution for this specimen. On the obverse, we can see three Armenian letters at the outer margin, which appear to be ԱՍՏ, traces of the legend “ԿԱՐՈՂՈՒԹԵԱՄԲՆ ԱՍՏՈՒԾՈՅ / KAROGHUTEAMBN ASTOUDzOY,” which is translated to “By the will of God.” This legend is seen in various forms of abbreviation on various types of drams of Levon I, Smbat and Oshin. Meanwhile, the reverse reveals much less; only the letters ԱԹ are visible, which no doubt can be reconstructed as “...ԹԱԳԱՎՈՐ ՀԱՅՈՅ / ... TAGAVOR HAYOTs,” which translates to “...king of Armenians,” with the dots substituted for the name of whatever king it might be. We can immediately rule out Oshin as a host because his reign was later than the proposed time of the overstrike. This leaves only half double drams⁹, coronation drams¹⁰, and regular drams¹¹ of Levon and coronation¹² or regular¹³ drams of Smbat as

⁸ Private collection.

⁹ Nercessian, ACV, numbers 274-275.

¹⁰ Nercessian, ACV 256-267.

possible hosts. Since the coronation issues and half double drams of Levon I, along with all coronation/regular drams of Smbat are scarce, and issued over an extremely short interval, it seems most probable that the host is a regular Levon I dram. Levon I drams were the most numerous silver coins of Cilician Armenia, and enjoyed the greatest range of circulation. A rather impressive example of this is a hoard of these trams discovered in the vicinity of the city of Izmit during the construction of an Ottoman railroad¹⁴ towards the end of the nineteenth century. This corroborates a north-west circulation range for this type and confirms that such types probably travelled all over Asia Minor.

As far as the overstriking, it is most likely the Seljuq mint removed a Cilician silver coin from local circulation to be overstruck. We may safely assume this was not tribute in the same manner as the well-known Mamluk overstrikes of fourteenth century takvorins. By this time the Seljuqs were in the final years of their existence, and in no position to extract tribute from the Armenians. Perhaps the Seljuq mint faced silver shortages, or needed to strike large numbers of coins in a short time, forcing it to withdraw foreign coins from circulation.

The discovery of a new Seljuq overstrike on an Armenian dram is extremely interesting and helps to shed light on numismatic relations and monetary circulation between Cilician Armenia and the Seljuq sultanate of Rum. In all likelihood, more overstrikes in this category will be discovered in the near future. However, since these overstrikes are often very well executed, they will be more difficult to detect, unlike the haphazard Mamluk overstrikes that left much of the host detail intact allowing numismatists to easily unlock their secrets.

ARMENIAN NUMISMATIC LITERATURE

(cont. from p. 78) *Թագաւորի Հայոց կիսանդրիով և 675 քատէզ Թագաւորը նստած. 1 քարտէզ կոխուած ըրլլոնի կաղապարներով, 8 արարերէնով կրկնադրոշմուած քարտէզ. Սմբատ (1296-1298), 41 օծման ու 66 հասարակ դրամ, 5 կիսադրամ, և 181 փող. Կոստանդին Ա (1298-1299), 2 ոսկի դահեկան, 1 երկդրամ, 26 դրամ և 46 քարտէզ. Լևոն Գ (1301-1307), 574 Թագուորին, 3 կիսադրամ, 4 արարերէնով կրկնադրոշմուած Թագուորին, 1 քարտէզ կոխուած Հեթում Բ-ի ըրլլոնի կաղապարով. Օշին (1308-1320), 97 օծման դրամ, 2 կիսադրամ, 552 Թագուորին, 19 արարերէնով կրկնադրոշմուած Թագուորին, 1 փող կոխուած Թագուորինի կաղապարներով, 1 ձիավար փող, և 177 փող Թագաւորը բազմած գահին վրայ. Լևոն Դ (1320-1342), 288 Թագուորին, 4 կիսադրամ, 88 արարերէնով կրկնադրոշմուած Թագուորին, 45 մեծ ու 132 փոքր փող. Կի (1342-1344), 65 Թագուորին, 1 արարերէնով կրկնադրոշմուած Թագուորին, և 7 փող. Կոստանդին Գ (1344-1363), 473 Թագուորին, 2 արարերէնով կրկնադրոշմուած Թագուորին, 53 փող կոխուած Թագուորինի կաղապարներով, և 53 փող. Լևոն Բռնկակալ (1363-1365), 205 Թագուորին, 1 արարերէնով կրկնադրոշմուած Թագուորին, և 12 փող կոխուած Թագուորինի կաղապարներով, 2 մեծ փող և 17 փող. Կոստանդին Դ (1365-1373), 684 Թագուորին, 117 փող կոխուած Թագուորինի կաղապարներով, և 16 փող. Լևոն Ե (1374-1375), 72 ըրլլոն և 145 փող. Յետ ուրբէնեան 3 արծաթ ու 20 պղինձ դրամներ. Հելլենակը*

¹¹ Nercessian, ACV 282-299.

¹² Nercessian, ACV 407.

¹³ Nercessian, ACV 408.

¹⁴ Levon A. Saryan, "Provenance of the 1873 Sibilian Hoard of Levon I Trams," *Armenian Numismatic Journal*, Ser. I, Vol. XXI (1995), pp.47-51.

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Compiled by Y. T. NERCESSIAN

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Specialist in Armenian Coins and Books

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2007

COINS

Tigranes II (95-56 B.C.), copper coins

1. Tyche. Obv.: Bust of Tigranes draped r. wearing five-pointed Armenian tiara. Rev.: Tyche of Antioch. f/m Δ /H.A. ACV 50, CAA 94v, 5.36-18mm-11h, F+/-VF \$180
2. --. ACV50, CAA93, 5.03g-18mm-10h, F+ \$150
3. --. ACV50, CAA93, 4.08g-18mm-11h, F+/-VF \$180
4. Heracles. ACV 66, CAA 101V, 3.53g-16mm-11h, F+/-VF \$225
5. --. ACV67, CAA101V, 2.58g-15mm-12h, F+/-VF \$200
6. Cornucopia. ACV94, CAA104V, 2.10g-14mm-11h, F+/-VF \$180
7. --. ACV95, CAA105V, 4.20g-15mm-12h, F+ \$150
8. --. ACV96, CAA105V, 2.59g-15mm-11h, F+ \$150

ROMAN COINS RELATING TO ARMENIA

9. Marcus Aurelius, denarius (A.D. 161-180). Rev.: Armenia std. 1. in mournful attitude. Bed 406V, RIC 80, AR 3.61g-17.5mm-6h. Legend includes ARMEN. VF+ \$600
10. --. Bed 406, RIC82, AR 3.54-18mm-6h. Legend includes ARMEN. FDC \$495
11. --. Bed 406, RIC 82(a), AR 3.60g-17mm-12h Legend includes ARMEN. EF \$400
12. --. Bed 406V, RIC 81, AR 3.38-18mm-6h Legend includes ARMEN. VF+ \$300
13. --. Bed 406V, RIC 80, AR 2.96g-17mm-6h Legend includes ARMEN. VF+ \$225
14. --. Bed 406V, RIC 81, AR 3.22g-17mm-6h. Legend includes ARMEN. VF/-VF \$175
15. --. Bed 406V, RIC 81, AR 2.45g-17mm-12h. Legend includes ARMEN. -VF \$100
16. Lucius Verus, As (A.D. 161-169). Rev.: Armenia std. 1. in mournful attitude. Legend includes ARMEN. Bed 270V, RIC 1365, 11.30g-25mm-12h. VF+/-EF \$750

CILICIAN ARMENIAN COINS

Levon I (1198-1219), silver coins

17. Tram. Obv.: King seated on a throne ornamented with two lions, wearing a crown and royal mantle on his shoulders. Rev.: A long cross between two lions rampant regardant. ACV289V, CCA289, 2.89g-21mm-3h, VF+\$150
18. --. ACV293V, CCA431b, 3.06g-21mm-1h, VF \$50
19. --. ACV293V, CCA433, 2.85g-23mm-7h, VF \$30
20. --. ACV291V, CCA612, 2.97g-21mm-7h, -VF \$45
21. --. ACV291V, CCA616v, 2.88g-22mm-10h, F+ \$40

Hetoum I (1226-1270), silver coins

22. Hetoum-Zabel Tram. Obv.: Queen Zabel standing on l. facing and King Hetoum standing on r. facing. Both figures are crowned and wearing royal vestments. Both are holding a long cross. Rev.: Lion walking r., with l. paw uplifted.

- Cross behind lion. ACV341, CCA1139, 2.82g-21mm, 8h, VF+ \$130
23. --. ACV342v, CCA1192, 2.96g-21mm-4.5h, VF+ \$175
24. Kardez King seated. ACV364V, CCA1406, 3.25g-23mm-8h, F+ \$40
25. --. ACV364v, CCA1419v, 4.15g-22mm-3h, F/F+ \$40
26. Levon II (1270-1289), Tram. ACV371V, CCA 1445v, 2.82g-22mm-12h, VF \$200
27. --. ACV370V, CCA 1455, 2.71g-22mm-9h, VF \$275
28. Kardez. ACV387v, CCA1552V, 4.79g-26mm-3h, F \$30
29. --. ACV388v, CCA1574v, 3.26g-23mm-3h, -VF \$35

Levon IV (1320-1342), silver coins

30. Takvorin. ACV453s, CCA1971s, 2.45g-21mm-3h, Ex-Slocum collection, F+ \$40
31. --. ACV453v, CCA1973v, 1.94g-21mm-8h, -F \$40
32. Poghs. YN LIV 63V, 1.55g-16mm, -F \$40
33. --. ACV465v, CCA2017V, 0.99g-18mm-3h, VG+ \$25
34. --. ACV465v, CCA2015V, 1.37g-16mm-5h, VG+ \$25
35. --. ACV466v, CCA2019V, 1.72g-16mm-6h, -F \$40
36. --. YN LIV 45, 1.29g-15mm-12h, VG+ \$25
37. --. YN LIV 54, 1.21g-17mm-10h, VG+ \$25
38. Poghs. 3 coins. Avg. grade VG to VG+ \$50

USSR COINS relating to ARMENIA (1989-90)

39. Armenian earthquake coin, 3 rubles cupro-nickel, 1989, UNC \$10
40. Matenadaran, 5 r. cupro-nickel, proof, 1990.
 - a. With government mint display package \$35
 - b. With mint plastic envelope (sealed) \$30
41. Matenadaran coin as before, UNC, 1990 \$20
42. 1000 yr Christianity in Russia, 3 5-r. coins \$60

USSR Bonds (1936-1953)

43. 10 rubles, 1936, black, tan. EF \$30

REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA

44. Anahit, 25000 dram, 900 k. GOLD. UNC \$300
45. Apricot coin, 25 dram, AR proof \$75
46. Sardarapat Battle, 25 dram, AR proof \$75
47. David of Sasun coin, 25 dram, AR proof \$60
48. Garni coin, 25 dram, AR proof \$60
49. Jakharak coin, 1000 dram, AR proof \$60
50. Artsakh coin, 25 dram, AR proof \$90
51. United Nations, 100 dram, AR proof \$75
52. 32nd Chess Olympiad, 100 dram, AR proof \$50
53. 32nd Chess Olympiad, 100 dram, AR proof \$75
54. Bagramian, Marshal. 100 dram, AR proof \$50
55. National Assembly, 500 dram, AR proof. 5oz \$250
56. Artaxiad Dynasty, 500 dram, AR proof. 5oz \$200
57. Arsacid Dynasty, 500 dram, AR proof. 5 oz \$200
58. Cilician Armenia, 500 dram, AR proof. 5 oz \$200

REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA (cont.)

59. Bagratid Dynasty, 500 dram, AR proof. 5 oz \$200

Cupronickel coins (1996-1997)

60. 32nd Chess Olympiad, 100 dram, Proof. \$15

61. 32nd Chess Olympiad, 100 dram, UNC \$3

62. Charents, 100 dram, UNC \$3

Aluminum coin set (1994)

63. 10, 20, or 50 luma, UNC, each piece \$2

64. 1, 3, 5, or 10 dram, UNC, each piece \$2

Bank notes (1993-4)

65. 10, 25, or 50 dram, UNC each banknote \$2

66. 100 dram, Ser. ԴԱ, or ԴԲ, UNC \$3

67. 200 dram, Ser. ԵԱ, UNC \$5

68. 500 dram, Ser. ԶԱ, or ԶԲ, UNC \$15

69. 1000 dram, Ser. ԹԱ, UNC \$20

70. 5000 dram, Ser. ԽԱ, UNC \$40

Bonds (1993)

71. 500 r., obligation bonds (1993) UNC \$25

72. 1000 r., obligation bonds (1993) UNC \$25

Medal (951-1003) anniver. commemoration

73. Grigor Narekatsi medal, AR proof 5 oz. \$200

74. Armenian ornamental brass work, door knob. 38x42 mm, spiral broken, nice patina \$100

Medals and Key Chains

XN1. Komitas medal, reverse 3 cranes [1966] \$50

XN2. 75th anniversary of Armenian Church in USA, Æ\$50

XN3. Armenia-Los Angeles, Garni Æ \$10

XN4. Armenia-Los Angeles, Etchmiadzin Æ \$10

XN5. Armenia-Los Angeles, Zvartnots Æ \$10

XN6. Armenia-LA, Yerevan's Arm. Mem. Mon. Æ \$10

XN7. Armenia-Los Angeles David of Sassoun Æ \$10

XN8. Armenia-Los Angeles Government House \$10

XN9. Set of 6 Armenia-Los Angeles medals Æ \$50

XN10. Fresno Numism. Society/David of Sassoun Æ \$10

XN11. Levon V of Cilician Armenia Æ \$50

XN12. Key chain, Tigranes II coin replica \$6

Numismatic Books

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New York: American Numismatic Society, NNM 147,

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Plate I



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Obv.



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